



# Montgomery County Maryland

THE  
MEETING TRANSCRIPT  
OF THE  
COUNTY COUNCIL

**The Meeting Transcript of  
The Montgomery County Council**



April 19, 2005

**TRANSCRIPT  
-- April 19, 2005 --**

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**PRESENT**

Thomas Perez, President  
Phil Andrews  
Howard Denis  
Marilyn J. Praisner

George Leventhal, Vice President  
Michael Knapp  
Nancy Floreen  
Steven A. Silverman

**ABSENT**  
Michael Subin

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1 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** GOOD MORNING. SORRY FOR THE DELAY IN  
2 OUR BEGINNING. WE'VE BEEN TENDING TO SOME ISSUES. IT LOOKS  
3 LIKE WE DO NOT HAVE THE PERSON HERE FOR THE INVOCATION, SO I  
4 WOULD SIMPLY ASK PEOPLE TO REFLECT ON WHAT I BELIEVE IS THE  
5 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING. AND PLEASE SAY  
6 A PRAYER FOR THOSE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES , AS WELL AS THE  
7 TWO PEOPLE IN SILVER SPRING WHO TRAGICALLY PERISHED LAST WEEK  
8 IN A FIRE. OKAY. THANK YOU. LET ME TURN TO COUNCILMEMBER  
9 PRAISNER FOR A WONDERFUL PROCLAMATION ON AN IMPORTANT  
10 ANNIVERSARY.

11  
12 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** COULD YOU COME UP HERE, PLEASE? NANCY  
13 SORENG IS A DUES PAYING MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS,  
14 AND PROUD OF IT! COME JOIN ME. WHERE'S NANCY? NANCY? MADAM  
15 PRESIDENT? THANK YOU. YES. COME BEHIND HERE, PLEASE, ALL OF  
16 YOU. TWO OTHER FORMER PRESIDENTS, CARLA SATINKSY AND BARBARA  
17 HEYMAN, AND FELLOW MEMBERS. THANK YOU. YEAH, THAT'S FINE.  
18 THANK YOU. I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE THIS MORNING AND HAVE THIS  
19 OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNIZE ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED  
20 ORGANIZATIONS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
21 OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ON THEIR 85TH ANNIVERSARY. THE 85TH  
22 ANNIVERSARY FOR THE LEAGUE NATIONALLY, AND THE 85TH  
23 ANNIVERSARY FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S LEAGUE, WHICH MEANS WE  
24 WERE THERE AT THE BEGINNING. AND THROUGH THE YEARS, I DON'T  
25 KNOW OF ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY WHO CAN

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1 COMPARE WITH THE RESPECT AND CREDIBILITY THAT THE LEAGUE OF  
2 WOMEN VOTERS ENGENDERS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY THROUGH YOUR STUDY  
3 OF ISSUES, FOR YOUR ADVOCACY ON VOTING AND VOTING ISSUES, FOR  
4 YOUR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR WOMEN IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY.  
5 NOTHING, NO ONE, NO ORGANIZATION COMPARES TO THE LEAGUE OF  
6 WOMEN VOTERS. AND SO, TOMORROW, WE'LL HAVE A LUNCHEON  
7 CELEBRATING THE EVENT. BUT TODAY IS OUR TUESDAY, SO THAT MEANS  
8 THAT THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COUNTY COUNCIL TO  
9 RECOGNIZE THIS WONDERFUL ORGANIZATION. WHEREAS IN 1920 THE  
10 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WAS FOUNDED BOTH NATIONALLY AND LOCALLY  
11 TO PROVIDE NEWLY ENFRANCHISED WOMEN, AND NOW ALL CITIZENS,  
12 WITH UNBIASED BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON CANDIDATES AND ISSUES  
13 THAT THESE VOTERS WOULD NEED TO BE INFORMED VOTERS. AND  
14 WHEREAS THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HAS FACILITATED THE ACTIVE  
15 PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN GOVERNMENT BY REGISTERING VOTERS,  
16 PROVIDING GUIDES TO GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION AND DIRECTORIES OF  
17 ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND WORKING FOR OPEN AND ETHICAL GOVERNMENT  
18 PROCESSES. AND WHEREAS THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CONTINUES TO  
19 STUDY-- EXCUSE ME-- AND ACT ON MANY ISSUES INCLUDING TAXES,  
20 PLANNING AND ZONING, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, EDUCATION,  
21 HEALTH, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND SERVICES FOR CHILDREN. AND  
22 WHEREAS MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HAVE SERVED OUR  
23 COUNTY ON MANY ADVISORY GROUPS, AND MANY HAVE GONE ON TO  
24 PURSUE CAREERS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE OR ELECTIVE OFFICE. AND  
25 WHEREAS, OVER THE PAST 85 YEARS, THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEAGUE



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1 OF WOMEN VOTERS HAS PLAYED A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN OUR COMMUNITY  
2 THROUGH ITS STUDY AND ACTION PROCESS AND CONTINUES TO WIELD  
3 POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON THE POLITICAL SCENE. NOW, THEREFORE BE  
4 IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY,  
5 MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIMS THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
6 DAY FOR THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY. AND  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT COUNTY COUNTY COUNCIL JOINS WITH  
8 THE FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS WITH THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IN  
9 MONTGOMERY COUNTY IN WISHING THEM A HAPPY 85TH ANNIVERSARY.  
10 SIGNED THE 19TH DAY OF APRIL, 2005 BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, TOM  
11 PEREZ. NANCY, IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO GIVE YOU THE  
12 CERTIFICATE.

13  
14 **NANCY SORENG:** THANK YOU.

15  
16 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** THANK YOU. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY  
17 SOMETHING? PLEASE.

18  
19 **NANCY SORENG:** WELL, I JUST WANT TO THANK THE COUNCIL FOR  
20 HONORING US ON OUR 85TH ANNIVERSARY AND, IN RETURN, TOMORROW  
21 WE ARE PLANNING TO HONOR SOME PEOPLE IN THIS COMMUNITY WHO  
22 HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE. AND THOSE HONOREES ARE TWO OF OUR  
23 MEMBERS, BARBARA HEYMAN-- WHERE ARE YOU?

24  
25 **BARBARA HEYMAN:** BEHIND YOU.

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1

2 **NANCY SORENG:** AND CARLA SATINSKY, THE MENTAL HEALTH  
3 ASSOCIATION, AND ODESSA SHANNON. AND WE ARE HONORING ALL OF  
4 THEM FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO THE LIVES OF THE CITIZENS IN  
5 MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

6

7 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** THANK YOU. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

8

9 **NANCY SORENG:** THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

10

11 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** OH, OKAY. THEY WANT ANOTHER PICTURE.  
12 COME ON. OKAY. WHOOPS. THERE WE GO. THANK YOU. SEE YOU  
13 TOMORROW.

14

15 **SPEAKERS:** SEE YOU TOMORROW. [CROSS TALK]

16

17 **SPEAKER:** SEE YOU TOMORROW.

18

19 **SPEAKER:** THANK YOU. [INAUDIBLE - OFF MICROPHONE]

20

21 **COUNCILMEMBER KNAPP:** WELL, IT'S MY PLEASURE AND OPPORTUNITY  
22 TODAY TO TAKE THIS CHANCE TO RECOGNIZE-- WE KNOW WE HAVE THE  
23 FINEST TEACHERS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY BUT IT'S IMPORTANT, I  
24 THINK, FOR US TO SEE THE EXAMPLES OF WHAT THEY DO ON A REGULAR  
25 BASIS. AND SO IT IS MY PLEASURE TO PRESENT A PROCLAMATION

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1 TODAY TO MS. BILLIE BRADSHAW, PHYSICS TEACHER AT POOLESVILLE  
2 HIGH SCHOOL. AND I WOULD ASK PRINCIPAL LANG TO COME UP AND  
3 JOIN US AS WELL, SINCE YOU ACTUALLY FORCED HER TO ENTER INTO  
4 THE CONTEST IN THE FIRST PLACE. BILLIE HAS BEEN SELECTED AS A  
5 FINALIST OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD.  
6 AND AS SOMEONE WHO HAS SPENT MUCH OF MY CAREER TRYING TO KIND  
7 OF BRIDGE THAT GAP BETWEEN SCIENCE AND LAY PEOPLE, I WAS  
8 PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED AT WHAT SHE HAS DONE TO TRY AND TAKE  
9 HER PHYSICS ACTIVITIES AND REALLY TIE IT INTO THE ENVIRONMENT  
10 AND THINGS THAT CHILDREN CAN LEARN, AND STUDENTS CAN LEARN AND  
11 UNDERSTAND IN DAY-TO-DAY LIFE. AND I JUST WANTED TO READ A FEW  
12 OF THE THINGS THAT SHE HAS DONE, BECAUSE IT IS VERY IMPRESSIVE  
13 AS FAR AS THE APPLICATION. BILLIE CREATED A LAB FOR THE  
14 PHYSICS OF SENECA CREEK WHEREAS SHE TOOK STUDENTS TO GET INTO  
15 THE CREEK TO MEASURE THE VELOCITY OF WATER IN SEVERAL PLACES.  
16 SO, TO TAKE SOMETHING IN A NATURAL LANDMARK AND REALLY SHOW  
17 THE STUDENTS WHERE PHYSICS APPLIES THERE. I WAS VERY IMPRESSED  
18 AT THE RE-CREATION OF THE MOCK CHESAPEAKE BAY, THE LAZY RIVER,  
19 WHICH IS AT THE POOLESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL GREENHOUSE. BUT THE  
20 THING THAT REALLY IMPRESSED ME WAS GOING TO THE SMITH OUTDOOR  
21 EDUCATION CENTER AND CREATING A COURSE, "THE CONCEPTS OF THE  
22 PHYSICS OF THE CONFIDENCE" COURSE. REALLY TAKING THINGS THAT  
23 PEOPLE LOOK AND DO AND ENJOY, TEAM-BUILDING EXERCISES AND ALL  
24 OF THESE TYPE OF THINGS, BREAKING IT DOWN SO THAT PEOPLE CAN  
25 UNDERSTAND IN THAT ENVIRONMENT WHAT THE PHYSICS ARE THAT

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1 REALLY MAKE THAT WORK, SO THAT PEOPLE CAN HAVE A TRUE  
2 APPRECIATION FOR PHYSICS AND SCIENCE AND THE WORLD AROUND THEM  
3 AS OPPOSED TO TAKING IT FOR GRANTED. I JUST-- I'M VERY, VERY  
4 IMPRESSED AT ANYONE WHO CAN MAKE THAT LEAP BECAUSE I JUST  
5 THINK TOO OFTEN, IT'S EASY FOR US TO SAY, "WELL, THAT'S  
6 SCIENCE. I DON'T THINK WITH THAT PART OF MY BRAIN." AND SO, IF  
7 YOU CAN ACTUALLY MAKE PEOPLE AWARE THAT SCIENCE IS EVERY PLACE,  
8 YOU HAVE DONE A TREMENDOUS, TREMENDOUS FEAT FOR EVERYONE. LET  
9 ME READ THIS PROCLAMATION. WHEREAS BILLIE BRADSHAW, PHYSICS  
10 TEACHER AT POOLESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, HAS BEEN SELECTED AS A  
11 FINALIST FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
12 AWARD. AND WHEREAS THE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD PROGRAM WAS  
13 CREATED BY THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST TO CELEBRATE THE  
14 CONTRIBUTIONS THAT MARYLAND TEACHERS MAKE TO RESTORING AND  
15 PROTECTING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY. AND WHEREAS THE TEACHER OF THE  
16 YEAR AWARD IS PRESENTED TO TWO TEACHERS, ONE ELEMENTARY OR  
17 MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER AND ONE HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER, WHO  
18 DEMONSTRATE A GENUINE AND SUSTAINED COMMITMENT TO BAY  
19 EDUCATION, FIELD EXPERIENCES, AND RESTORATION EFFORTS WHILE  
20 SIMULTANEOUSLY ADVANCING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT. AND WHEREAS  
21 BILLIE BRADSHAW'S INFECTIOUS LOVE FOR PHYSICS AND  
22 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE IS DEMONSTRATED AS SHE CREATES AN  
23 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM THAT REACHES FAR BEYOND MOST STUDENTS'  
24 TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE BY EMPHASIZING HANDS-ON,  
25 INVESTIGATIVE LEARNING. AND WHEREAS, AS BILLIE BRADSHAW



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1 UNRAVELS THE MYSTERIES OF PHYSICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE,  
2 SHE HELPS HER STUDENTS DEVELOP A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO THE  
3 BAY WATERSHED AND PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM TO HELP THEM  
4 IMPROVE IT. AND WHEREAS BILLY BRADSHAW EXEMPLIFIES HOW  
5 EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO ACADEMIC  
6 EXCELLENCE CAN OPEN THE DOORS OF SUCCESS FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE  
7 OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT  
8 COUNTY COUNCIL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY HEREBY PROCLAIMS  
9 CONGRATULATIONS TO BILLIE BRADSHAW FOR BEING SELECTED AS  
10 FINALIST FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
11 AWARD. PRESENTED ON THIS 19TH DAY OF APRIL, 2005. TOM PEREZ,  
12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT. [ APPLAUSE ]

13  
14 **COUNCILMEMBER KNAPP:** THANK YOU VERY MUCH. WE'LL TAKE A PICTURE.  
15 OH, COME HERE. [ LAUGHTER ] WE'VE GOT TO GET THE PRINCIPAL IN  
16 IT.

17  
18 **SPEAKER:** WE WANT TO GET ONE MORE WITH YOU IN IT.

19  
20 **SPEAKER:** WE JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE.

21  
22 **SPEAKER:** GREAT.

23  
24 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD  
25 LIKE TO SAY?

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1

2 **BILLIE BRADSHAW:** I JUST REALLY WANT TO THANK THE COUNTY  
3 COUNCIL FOR RECOGNIZING THE HARD WORK I'VE DONE, AND I KNOW  
4 YOU KNOW THAT IT WASN'T JUST BY MYSELF. WE'VE GOT A GREAT  
5 LEADERSHIP TEAM AND MOST OF ALL, GREAT STUDENTS. SO, THANKS  
6 AGAIN.

7

8 **COUNCILMEMBER KNAPP:** THANK YOU VERY MUCH. [ APPLAUSE ]  
9 [TALKING OFF MIKE]

10

11 **COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN:** GOOD MORNING. I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE  
12 JOINED BY AL GRUBER, A GREAT MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY. WHEN WE  
13 TALK ABOUT COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT HEARING  
14 FROM THE COMMUNITY, AL'S LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO MONTGOMERY  
15 COUNTY RESIDENTS REALLY SERVES AS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF WHAT I  
16 THINK IT MEANS TO BE A COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AND A COMMUNITY  
17 LEADER. I WILL NOT EVEN ATTEMPT TO READ ALL OF THE  
18 INVOLVEMENTS THAT AL HAS HAD IN A LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO  
19 MONTGOMERY COUNTY, BUT I WILL JUST TOUCH ON A FEW HIGHLIGHTS.  
20 AL GRUBER HAS SERVED ON THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHNIC AFFAIRS  
21 COMMITTEE. HE WAS THE FOUNDING VICE CHAIR, AND THEN HE SERVED  
22 AS CHAIR FOR SIX YEARS AND CHAIR EMERITUS. HE SERVED AS  
23 COMMISSIONER OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE  
24 HUMANITIES FOR SIX YEARS. HE WAS CO-FOUNDER AND FIRST VICE  
25 PRESIDENT OF THE WHEATON CITIZENS' COALITION GOING BACK TO

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1 1988, TO THE PRESENT. AND HE'S BEEN A MEMBER SINCE 1989 ON THE  
2 EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY RETIRED EMPLOYEES'  
3 ASSOCIATION. HE IS A TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTOR TO OUR COMMUNITY,  
4 A GREAT, TRUE PUBLIC SERVANT IN EVERY MEANING OF THE WORD, AND  
5 WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO PRESENT THIS PROCLAMATION INDICATING  
6 THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF  
7 ALBERT GRUBER, ALTHOUGH WE ALL KNOW HIM AS AL, FOR HIS  
8 TREMENDOUS VOLUNTEER SERVICE FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF MONTGOMERY  
9 COUNTY. WE WISH HIM WELL. WE KNOW YOU'VE GOT A FEW KNEE  
10 PROBLEMS, WHICH YOU ARE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF. AND WE WISH YOU  
11 GODSPEED IN HELPING TO CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF  
12 MONTGOMERY COUNTY FOR YEARS TO COME. CONGRATULATIONS, AL.

13  
14 **ALBERT GRUBER:** THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

15  
16 **ALBERT GRUBER:** I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT THE 45 YEARS OR SO THAT  
17 I'VE BEEN ACTIVE IN THE COUNTY HAS REALLY BEEN A LABOR OF LOVE.  
18 I HAVE FOUND ALWAYS THAT NO MAN IS AN ISLAND UNTO HIMSELF, AS  
19 JOHN DONNE WROTE IN ONE OF HIS FAMOUS BOOKS IN THE MIDDLE AGES.  
20 YOU HAVE TO LIVE IN THE COMMUNITY. YOU HAVE TO BE PART OF THE  
21 COMMUNITY. YOU HAVE TO GIVE OF YOURSELF. YOU CAN'T LIVE ALONE,  
22 BECAUSE WE ALL HAVE TO LIVE IN A WORLD TOGETHER. AND I REALLY  
23 HAVE ENJOYED EVERY MINUTE OF MY CIVIC ACTIVITIES FROM THE DAY  
24 I WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MY CIVIC ASSOCIATION. I'VE BEEN THE  
25 SECRETARY-TREASURER FOR THE LAST 35 YEARS. AND WHEN I WAS

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1 ELECTED TO THE ALLIED CIVIC GROUP, OF WHICH I'VE BEEN A MEMBER  
2 FOR OVER 45 YEARS. AND THIS IS MY COUNTY. THIS IS MY STATE.  
3 THIS IS MY COUNTRY. YOU HAVE TO GIVE IT SOMETHING, BECAUSE IT  
4 HAS GIVEN US A LOT. AND THAT'S MY ATTITUDE OF LIFE. I WANT TO  
5 THANK THE COUNCIL AND STEVE FOR AWARDED ME THIS RECOGNITION,  
6 AND I WILL CONTINUE TO DO MY CIVIC DUTY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.  
7 [ APPLAUSE ]

8

9 **COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN:** THANK YOU. HE WANTS TO GET A LITTLE  
10 PICTURE HERE. YOU WERE GREAT.

11

12 **ALBERT GRUBER:** THANK YOU.

13

14 **COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN:** GOOD. MOZELTOV.

15

16 **ALBERT GRUBER:** THANK YOU, COUNCIL MEMBERS.

17

18 **SPEAKER:** CONGRATULATIONS. [OFF MICROPHONE]

19

20 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** MS. LAUER? AGENDA AND CALENDAR CHANGES?

21

22 **CLERK LAUER:** YES. FOR THE AGENDA TODAY, THERE'S AN ADDITION TO  
23 THE CONSENT CALENDAR TO ADD (N) INTRODUCTION OF AN AMENDMENT  
24 OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT'S CAPITAL BUDGET AND C.I.P. FOR FY05-  
25 10. AND IT'S FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,

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1 \$195,000 FOR STREET TREE PLANTING. AND THE SOURCE IS GO BONDS.  
2 PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE MAY 10TH AT 1:30. WE'VE ALSO ADDED A  
3 LEGISLATIVE SESSION TO INTRODUCE EXPEDITED BILL 10-05,  
4 PROPERTY TAX DEFERRALS, SPONSORED BY COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL,  
5 WITH A HEARING PLANNED MAY 10TH AT 7:30 . AS FAR AS CALENDAR  
6 CHANGES, I JUST WANT TO NOTE THAT PHED MEETING PLANNED FOR  
7 FRIDAY MORNING HAS BEEN CANCELLED. THANK YOU.

8

9 **SPEAKER:** YEA! [ LAUGHTER ]

10

11 **SPEAKER:** THOSE ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE PHED COMMITTEE.

12

13 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** THEY'LL BE TAKING UP THE UPPER ROCK CREEK  
14 MASTER PLAN AGAIN. [ LAUGHTER ] JUST GOING TO RECYCLE ALL THE-  
15 -

16

17 **SPEAKER:** JUST TO KEEP THEM IN SHAPE.

18

19 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** IT'S NOT ON THE CHARTS. YOU'RE READY  
20 TO GET OFF. [ LAUGHTER ]

21

22 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** OKAY. MADAM CLERK, APPROVAL OF THE  
23 MINUTES?

24



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1 **CLERK:** WE HAVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 4TH, 5TH AND 6TH FOR  
2 APPROVAL.

3

4 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** MOVED AND SECONDED. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR?  
5 UNANIMOUS AMONG THOSE PRESENT. CONSENT CALENDAR? MOVED AND  
6 SECONDED. MR. SILVERMAN?

7

8 **COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN:** THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I HAD A  
9 QUESTION ABOUT "G", WHICH IS THE RECOMMENDATION FOR  
10 NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF INVESTMENT TRUSTEES. HOW DOES  
11 THIS WORK?

12

13 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** WE SUBMIT OUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE  
14 COUNTY EXECUTIVE, AND THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SENDS OVER TO US  
15 THE NAMES TO US FOR REVIEW AND ACTION AGAIN.

16

17 **COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN:** WE RECOMMENDED FOUR PEOPLE, BUT HE  
18 ACTUALLY GETS TO APPOINT THE COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE?

19

20 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** ONE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE COUNCIL  
21 PLUS THE OTHERS, BECAUSE THEY ARE ALL FORMALLY APPOINTED, AND  
22 THEN CONFIRMED BY US.

23

24 **COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN:** OKAY. I WAS OBVIOUSLY, UNDER THE MIS-

25 -

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1

2 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** ARCHAIC.

3

4 **COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN:** NO, I WAS UNDER THE MIS-IMPRESSION  
5 THAT WE ACTUALLY SENT A NAME OVER TO HIM, AND THEREFORE, HE  
6 WOULD JUST APPOINT.

7

8 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** OH, MR. SILVERMAN!

9

10 **SPEAKER:** HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN COUNCIL PRESIDENT?

11

12 **COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN:** WE'VE NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE, SO--  
13 ANYWAY, THANK YOU.

14

15 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** OKAY. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR, SIGNIFY BY  
16 RAISING YOUR HAND. UNANIMOUS AMONG THOSE PRESENT. I WAS  
17 ABOUT TO MAKE A COMMENT ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR. AND I SAW NO  
18 LIGHTS, AND I SEIZED THE MOMENT TO VOTE ON IT. [ LAUGHTER ]  
19 OKAY.

20

21 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** IT'S THE CONSENT CALENDAR!

22

23 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** THAT'S RIGHT. IT WAS ALMOST A CONSENT  
24 CALENDAR, YES. AGENDA ITEM FOUR, SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS TO  
25 M.C.P.S. FY05 CAPITAL BUDGET AND AMENDMENT TO THE 05-10

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1 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET. INDOOR AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS,  
2 \$1.6 MILLION FOR LEAD ABATEMENT, SOURCE GO BONDS. THE  
3 EDUCATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL, I BELIEVE. AND MR.  
4 LEVCHENKO, IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU. GOOD MORNING.  
5 KEITH, THIS IS PRETTY STRAIGHT- FORWARD, I THINK.

6

7 **KEITH LEVCHENKO:** WELL, THE COUNCIL RECEIVED A SPECIAL  
8 APPROPRIATION AND C.I.P. AMENDMENT REQUEST FROM M.C.P.S. FOR  
9 THIS LEAD ABATEMENT EFFORT. THE REASON IT'S IN THE INDOOR AIR  
10 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT IS BECAUSE THAT WAS THE CLOSEST  
11 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT THAT M.C.P.S. HAD. OBVIOUSLY, THE SCOPE  
12 OF THE PROJECT WOULD BE CHANGED TO DEAL WITH LEAD IN THE WATER,  
13 AND WE DO HAVE TEXT RECOMMENDED IN THE PDF THAT WOULD MODIFY  
14 THE PROJECT AND THE PROJECT TITLE. THE REQUEST STEMS FROM THE  
15 TESTING THAT THE COUNCIL CERTAINLY HEARD PLENTY ABOUT LAST  
16 YEAR, WITH REGARD TO THE LEAD IN THE WATER THAT WAS IDENTIFIED  
17 IN THE SCHOOLS OVER THIS PAST YEAR. NOW, WE'RE GETTING TO A  
18 POINT WHERE M.C.P.S. IS LOOKING AT A PERMANENT SOLUTION AS  
19 OPPOSED TO THE FLUSHING PROCESS THAT THAT'S BEEN DONE SINCE  
20 THEY IDENTIFIED THE PROBLEM. THAT WAS CONSIDERED A TEMPORARY  
21 MEASURE. I'VE NOTED IN THE PACKET THE INTERAGENCY GROUP PUT  
22 TOGETHER AND THE PROTOCOLS THEY ESTABLISHED FOR THE TESTING,  
23 THE FLUSHING, AS WELL AS THE FIXTURE REPLACEMENT EFFORT, AND  
24 THIS REQUEST IS CONSISTENT WITH THAT. WE DO HAVE STAFF FROM  
25 M.C.P.S. HERE, AS WELL AS FROM H.H.S.. AND D.E.P. STAFF WERE

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1 ALSO ON THIS COMMITTEE, AND THEY CAN SPEAK TO THE SPECIFIC  
2 HEALTH ISSUES AS WELL AS THE PROTOCOLS THERE, THEIR  
3 INTERACTIONS AND HOW THEY'VE ESTABLISHED HOW TO MOVE FORWARD  
4 FROM HERE. I WILL ALSO NOTE THAT THERE IS AN ASSUMPTION THAT  
5 WE'LL BE BACK AGAIN NEXT YEAR LOOKING AT THE FINAL PHASE OF  
6 THIS WHICH, RIGHT NOW, IS LOOKING TO BE ABOUT AN EQUIVALENT  
7 EXPENSE THAT WE'LL BE CONSIDERING NEXT YEAR AS PART OF NEXT  
8 YEAR'S FULL C.I.P. SO THIS IS REALLY THE FIRST STEP, ABOUT  
9 HALF OF THE WORK HOPEFULLY, AND THEN WE'LL BE BACK NEXT YEAR.  
10 THE COMMITTEE DID RECOMMEND APPROVAL 2-0, WITH MR. DENIS  
11 ABSENT. MR. SUBIN IS NOT HERE TODAY, BUT MR. KNAPP CAN SPEAK  
12 AS WELL, TO SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT WERE RAISED. I'VE TRIED TO  
13 NOTE IN THE PACKET SOME OF THE COMMENTS THAT MR. SUBIN HAD, AS  
14 WELL.

15  
16 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** MR. KNAPP?

17  
18 **COUNCILMEMBER KNAPP:** WELL, ONCE WE GOT OVER THE FACT THAT WE  
19 COULDN'T BE AT OPENING DAY WITH MR. DENIS, WE THEN HAD A VERY  
20 PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATION. I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THE  
21 LEVEL OF COOPERATION AND COORDINATION THAT'S TAKEN PLACE ON  
22 THE TASK FORCE. D.E.P., M.C.P.S., H.H.S. HAVE ALL BEEN WORKING  
23 A LONG TIME WITH MR. SUBIN'S LEADERSHIP AS WELL, TO REALLY  
24 COME UP WITH A PROPOSAL THAT WILL ADDRESS LEAD IN OUR SCHOOLS.  
25 I THINK THAT EVERYONE IS- CONTINUES TO BE CONCERNED, AND I

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1 THINK THE PROPOSAL THAT'S COME FORWARD IS A-- I GUESS THE  
2 QUESTION WAS ASKED, "IS IT THE BEST PROPOSAL, OR IS IT A  
3 PROPOSAL THAT SOLVES THE PROBLEM?" AND THE ANSWER WE'VE  
4 RECEIVED FROM THE TASK FORCE, FROM ALL OF THE PARTICIPANTS, IS  
5 THAT THIS IS REALLY ONE THAT WE THINK SOLVES THE PROBLEM. THE  
6 PROTOCOLS ARE SUCH THAT WILL ALLOW US-- IF IN FACT WE FIND  
7 PROBLEMS ALONG THE WAY, THAT WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO STOP AND  
8 MAKE ANY MODIFICATIONS, WHICH I THINK IS IMPORTANT. ONE OF THE  
9 THINGS THAT I THINK THAT-- AT LEAST, I WAS PERSONALLY STRUCK  
10 BY IT, IS THE WHOLE NOTION THAT THIS WAS A PROBLEM THAT  
11 STARTED FROM THE EARLY '80S AS A RESULT OF LEAD IN PIPES. THAT  
12 WE MADE THIS MOVE TO LEAD-FREE FIXTURES. THE NOTION OF LEAD-  
13 FREE REALLY MEANS TO JUST HAVE LESS LEAD, NOT THAT THERE'S NO  
14 LEAD. AND SO, WHILE WE HAVE ADDRESSED THIS AS AN ISSUE IN- WE  
15 THINK WE'VE ADDRESSED THIS AS AN ISSUE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, IT  
16 STILL RAISES A QUESTION SINCE MANY FIXTURES IN RESIDENCES AND  
17 OTHER PLACES-- PEOPLE ARE WORKING ON THE PERCEPTION THAT  
18 THEY'RE LEAD-FREE. THAT'S SOMETHING THAT I THINK WE NEED TO  
19 KEEP AN EYE ON. I THINK MR. SUBIN AND I HAVE RAISED HAVE BOTH  
20 RAISED THIS AS A CONCERN. I THINK WE BOTH ARE REALLY  
21 COMFORTABLE WITH THE FACT THAT WE HAVE TESTING PROCESSES IN  
22 PLACE WITH H.H.S., THROUGH M.C.P.S., TO ADDRESS IT IN THE  
23 EVENT THAT THERE WAS ANY ISSUE TO SHOW UP SOMEPLACE OTHER  
24 PLACE OTHER THAN OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM. BUT THE NOTION THAT PEOPLE  
25 PROBABLY BELIEVE LEAD-FREE TO BE LEAD- FREE IS SOMETHING THAT



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1 PEOPLE PROBABLY NEED TO BE AWARE OF. BUT I THINK THIS IS A  
2 GOOD PROTOCOL. THE \$1.6 IS, AS KEITH SAID, IS THE FIRST PHASE.  
3 WE EXPECT TO COME BACK WITH THE SECOND PHASE NEXT YEAR,  
4 ROUGHLY AT AN EQUIVALENT DOLLAR AMOUNT. BUT THIS IS FINALLY, I  
5 THINK, MOVING TOWARD A RESOLUTION. THERE ARE STILL SOME  
6 SCHOOLS, I FORGET WHAT THE NUMBER IS, THAT HAVE NOT FULLY BEEN  
7 TESTED BUT THAT PROCESS IS ONGOING AND THAT WILL BE ROLLED  
8 INTO THE SECOND PHASE OF THE COMPLETION. SO THE ED COMMITTEE,  
9 WITH ALL OF THAT DISCUSSION, APPROVES RECOMMENDATION.

10

11 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** MRS. PRAISNER?

12

13 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR INCLUDING THE  
14 PROTOCOLS IN THE PACKET. HAVING HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH MR.  
15 HAWES OVER THIS ISSUE AND WITH FOLKS FROM E.P.A., I THINK THE  
16 PROTOCOLS ARE APPROPRIATE, AND I THINK THE DECISIONS AS TO  
17 WHICH FIXTURES ARE REPLACED AND WHICH ARE NOT IS A FUNCTION OF  
18 WHERE THEY'RE LOCATED, WHAT THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM IS,  
19 AND WHAT ALTERNATIVES MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT BE AVAILABLE. AS  
20 E.P.A. EXPLAINED TO ME, THERE ARE JURISDICTIONS ALL OVER THIS  
21 COUNTRY WHO ARE APPROACHING THIS ISSUE, AND AN AUTOMATIC  
22 ASSUMPTION THAT JUST BY REPLACING ALL FIXTURES YOU'VE RESOLVED  
23 THE ISSUE IS NOT ACCURATE EITHER. AND SO I THINK IT'S  
24 IMPORTANT. THE MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE, I THINK, FOR ANYONE IS,  
25 WHEN YOU GO TO GET A DRINK OF WATER, LET IT RUN AWHILE BEFORE

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1 YOU START TO CONSUME THE LIQUID. THAT'S A GOOD MEASURE FOR  
2 ANYONE TO THINK ABOUT. SO, THANK YOU. [OFF MICROPHONE]

3

4 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** OKAY. IF THERE ARE NO FURTHER COMMENTS ON  
5 THIS ITEM, THEN WE WILL PROCEED TO A VOTE. THOSE IN FAVOR OF  
6 THE SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR LEAD ABATEMENT WILL SIGNIFY BY  
7 RAISING THEIR HANDS. IT IS UNANIMOUS AMONG THOSE PRESENT.  
8 THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

9

10 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** YES, I GOT THE MESSAGE ABOUT THE  
11 ADDITIONAL MILLION IN THE DEBT SERVICE-- [INAUDIBLE] OKAY. NOW  
12 WE'RE AHEAD OF TIME, BECAUSE O.M.B. ISN'T HERE YET.

13

14 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** O.M.B. ISN'T HERE YET? OKAY, WELL, I'LL  
15 TELL YOU WHAT--

16

17 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** WHY DON'T WE DO THE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
18 SESSION?

19

20 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** WHY DON'T WE GO AHEAD AND TAKE UP THE  
21 DISTRICT COUNCIL SESSION? VERY GOOD. ARE WE PREPARED FOR THAT?  
22 IS EVERYONE HERE WHO NEEDS TO BE HERE?

23

24 **SPEAKER:** [INAUDIBLE] IS NOT HERE.

25

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1 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** HE'S NOT HERE? WELL HOW ABOUT-- WE HAVE  
2 AN ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA. IT'S ACTUALLY MY ITEM, WHICH IS--

3  
4 **SPEAKER:** OH, SURE. LET'S TAKE UP YOUR ITEM?

5  
6 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** MY ITEM. MR. PEREZ IS OUT OF THE ROOM.  
7 HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR THIS FOR SO LONG. LET'S GO DIRECTLY TO  
8 MY ITEM, AND THAT WOULD BE ITEM 5.1, WHICH IS EXPEDITED BILL  
9 10-05, PROPERTY TAX DEFERRAL. I WANT TO REALLY THANK MIKE  
10 FADEN FOR THE VERY QUICK AND HELPFUL RESEARCH THAT HE DID IN  
11 RESPONSE TO MY QUESTIONS LAST WEEK. AND IT TURNS OUT THAT, FOR  
12 15 YEARS, MONTGOMERY COUNTY HAS PROVIDED TAXPAYERS WITH THE  
13 OPPORTUNITY TO DEFER PAYMENTS OF A PORTION OF THEIR PROPERTY  
14 TAX. NOW, IT'S VERY INTERESTING, IF YOU LOOK BACK AT THE  
15 CALENDAR, THAT WHEN THIS ORIGINAL CHANGE WAS MADE TO COUNTY  
16 LAW, IT WAS 1990, RIGHT ABOUT THE TIME WHEN THE FIT AMENDMENT  
17 WAS BEING CONSIDERED. AND THERE CLEARLY WAS A GREAT DEAL OF  
18 DISGRUNTLEMENT AMONG PROPERTY TAX PAYERS AT RISING ASSESSMENTS  
19 AT THAT TIME, 15 YEARS AGO. AND NOW, HERE WE ARE AGAIN, WHERE  
20 ASSESSMENTS ARE RISING FASTER THAN THE C.P.I., AND PEOPLE ARE  
21 FEELING SQUEEZED. AND, AS I'VE BEEN OUT IN THE COMMUNITY  
22 SPEAKING WITH CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS AND WITH MY CONSTITUENTS, AS  
23 I KNOW ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES HAVE, I FREQUENTLY HEAR FROM  
24 TAXPAYERS THAT THEY DON'T SEE ANY BENEFIT FROM THE INCREASE IN

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1 VALUE IN THEIR HOME. THEY'RE NOT PLANNING TO SELL THEIR HOME,  
2 THEY HAVE NO PLANS TO DIE, AND SO, THEY DON'T SEE ANY BENEFIT.

3

4 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** NO PLAN TO DIE?

5

6 **SPEAKER:** NO CURRENT PLANS.

7

8 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** AND SO THE QUESTION COMES. CAN THEY  
9 DEFER THE INCREASE IN THEIR PROPERTY TAX? AND I'VE BEEN ASKED  
10 THAT ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. AND I ASKED MIKE FADEN, AND IT  
11 TURNS OUT THAT UNDER CURRENT LAW, TAXPAYERS ALREADY MAY DEFER  
12 THE INCREASE IN THE PROPERTY TAX ABOVE THAT AMOUNT OF THE  
13 PROPERTY TAX INCREASE THAT EXCEEDS INFLATION. THE BIG PROBLEM,  
14 AMONG OTHER PROBLEMS, IS THAT, IN 1990, THERE WAS AN INTEREST  
15 RATE OF 9% PLACED ON THE AMOUNT OF TAX DEFERRED, WHICH MAY  
16 HAVE SEEMED VERY REASONABLE IN 1990. I RECALL I BOUGHT A HOUSE  
17 IN 1989 WITH AN INTEREST RATE OF 9.75%. SO A 9% INTEREST RATE,  
18 AT THAT TIME, MAY HAVE SEEMED QUITE REASONABLE, BUT OF COURSE  
19 TODAY, MR. PRESIDENT, SOME MIGHT EVEN CALL THAT PREDATORY.

20

21 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** HE'S TALKING ABOUT HIS ASSUMPTIONS TO THE  
22 MANTLE HERE. I LEAVE FOR A MOMENT AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT  
23 HAPPENED!

24

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1 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** SO WHAT WE NEED TO DO IN ADDITION, I  
2 THINK, TO RESPONDING TO THE CURRENT CONCERN IN THE COMMUNITY  
3 OVER RISING PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS, SOME MIGHT REALLY LOOK  
4 AT THIS BILL AS A GOOD HOUSEKEEPING MEASURE, THAT WE ARE  
5 UPDATING AN REVISING A FEW SECTIONS OF THE CODE THAT HAS NOT  
6 BEEN LOOKED AT IN 15 YEARS. AND I THANK MIKE FADEN AGAIN FOR  
7 BRINGING THESE TO OUR ATTENTION, AND I THINK IT'S APPROPRIATE  
8 TO MAKE THESE THREE CHANGES TO THE CODE. AND I HOPE THAT THERE  
9 WILL BE TAXPAYERS WHO FIND THAT THIS ASSISTS THEM IN MANAGING  
10 THEIR HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES AND DEALING WITH UNANTICIPATED  
11 INCREASES IN THEIR PROPERTY TAX LIABILITY. SO, WHAT THIS BILL  
12 WOULD DO IS IT WOULD INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF PROPERTY TAXES FOR  
13 WHICH PAYMENT MAY BE DEFERRED BY TAKING OUT THE PROVISION IN  
14 EARLIER LAW THAT NETTED OUT INFLATION. THEREFORE, UNDER THIS  
15 BILL IF ENACTED, PROPERTY TAXES COULD BE DEFERRED. THE ENTIRE  
16 AMOUNT OF A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE COULD BE DEFERRED,  
17 IRREGARDLESS OF INFLATION. SECONDLY, THE HOUSEHOLDS THAT  
18 WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS DEFERRAL WOULD BE MUCH MORE  
19 CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE WOULD CONSIDER TO BE A MIDDLE CLASS  
20 FAMILY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, BY DOUBLING THE LIMIT FROM  
21 \$60,000 TO \$120,000 UNDER MY PROPOSAL. AND THEN, FINALLY,  
22 INSTEAD OF THE 9% INTEREST RATE THAT APPLIED UNDER CURRENT LAW,  
23 WE WOULD TAKE THIS TO A PRIME RATE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE  
24 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE. SO, THESE ARE THREE CHANGES TO THE LAW  
25 THAT I THINK UPDATE IT AND BRING IT INTO CONFORMANCE WITH WHAT



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1 WE WOULD ORDINARILY THINK OF IS A REASONABLE OFFER TO A MIDDLE  
2 INCOME MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAMILY. AND I APPRECIATE THE COUNCIL  
3 PRESIDENT FOR PLACING THIS ON THE AGENDA AS AN, ADDENDUM AND I  
4 APPRECIATE MR. FADEN'S ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH. HOW ARE WE  
5 DOING FOR TIME, MR. PRESIDENT?

6

7 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** WE'RE DOING GREAT.

8

9 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** THANK YOU. YOU WERE PERFECT. I WOULD LIKE  
10 TO BE RECORDED--

11

12 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** HOWIE'S GOING TO THE 1960S YANKEES  
13 STARTING LINE-UP.

14

15 **SPEAKER:** MANTLE, MARRIS, BERRA.

16

17 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** I WOULD LIKE TO BE RECORDED IN THE  
18 AFFIRMATIVE ON THE PRIOR VOTE. I APOLOGIZE FOR STEPPING OUT  
19 OF THE ROOM FOR A MINUTE. MS. PRAISNER?

20

21 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** WHAT I WAS INTERESTED IN IS, SINCE  
22 WE'VE HAD THE PROGRAM IN PLACE, OBVIOUSLY WITH THE LIMITATIONS  
23 THAT MR. LEVENTHAL-- OR THE INTEREST RATE ISSUES AND OTHERS, I  
24 WONDERED THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT HAD BEEN USED IN THE PAST, IF  
25 FINANCE OR SOMEONE CAN TELL US THAT, AND IF THERE HAVE BEEN

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1 ANY ISSUES WITH FOLKS NOT DOING THE PAYMENTS, AND HOW ONE  
2 DEALS WITH WHAT PARAMETER-- UNDER WHAT PARAMETERS THE COUNTY  
3 ENSURES THAT, SINCE THIS IS A DEFERRAL NOT A FORGIVENESS, THAT  
4 EVENTUALLY THE COUNTY GETS THE PAYMENTS THAT IT'S DUE.

5

6 **MIKE FADEN:** WE DID EMAIL FINANCE AND ASK THEM ABOUT THE  
7 EXPERIENCES AS FAR AS TAXPAYERS USING THIS. WE HAVEN'T HEARD  
8 BACK YET. MY IMPRESSION IS THAT VERY FEW, IF ANY, TAXPAYERS  
9 HAVE USED IT RECENTLY. THE LAW AND REGULATIONS DO PROVIDE FOR  
10 A LIEN ON THE PROPERTY IN CASE OF DEFERRALS WITH A DEFERRAL  
11 AGREEMENT FILED IN THE LAND RECORDS, SO THE COUNTY HAS  
12 SECURITY.

13

14 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** SO, IS THAT AUTOMATICALLY DONE? IT  
15 SAYS "COULD PROVIDE FOR."

16

17 **MIKE FADEN:** I THINK IT WOULD BE AUTOMATICALLY DONE.

18

19 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** OKAY. THANK YOU.

20

21 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** I WOULD BE VERY SURPRISED IF ANYONE  
22 TOOK ADVANTAGE OF IT AT A 9% INTEREST RATE OVER THE LAST  
23 DECADE. BUT WE'LL CERTAINLY HOPE THAT FINANCE DEPARTMENT CAN  
24 PROVIDE THAT INFORMATION WHEN WE GET-- BEFORE THE PUBLIC

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1 HEARING, AND CERTAINLY BEFORE THE M.F.P. COMMITTEE TAKES THIS  
2 UP.

3

4 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** OKAY. THERE ARE NO FURTHER LIGHTS, AND I  
5 APPRECIATE YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS. AND THE PUBLIC HEARING IS  
6 SET FOR MAY THE 10TH. I THINK THAT'S THE EVENING, WHEN WE HAVE  
7 OUR PUBLIC HEARING ON ALL OF THE OTHER REVENUE MEASURES.

8

9 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** YEAH.

10

11 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** SO, THAT WILL BE-- THAT'S A PERFECT TIME  
12 TO HAVE IT. [ LAUGHTER ] YES, MY GOD. UNBELIEVABLE.

13

14 **SPEAKER:** --FITS YOU WELL.

15

16 **SPEAKER:** AND WHAT A CONVENIENT PLACE, TOO. I UNDERSTAND IT  
17 WILL BE RIGHT HERE.

18

19 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** NO WAY! WOW. BOY, THERE'S SOMETHING N THE  
20 KOOL-AID THIS MORNING. OKAY. LET'S MOVE TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER  
21 FIVE, WHICH IS CONSIDERATION OF THE SPENDING AFFORDABILITY  
22 GUIDELINES FOR THE FY06 OPERATING BUDGET. I HAVE BEEN IN  
23 CONTACT WITH MR. SUBIN, WHO WAS TAKEN ILL THIS MORNING. AND I  
24 SUGGESTED THAT HE SIMPLY WORRY ABOUT HIS HEALTH AND GET BETTER,  
25 AND SO HE WILL BE UNABLE TO JOIN US THIS MORNING. WE NEED TO

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1 PROCEED TODAY BECAUSE, UNDER THE COUNTY CODE, THE PROVISIONS  
2 INDICATE THAT NOT LATER THAN THE SECOND TUESDAY AFTER THE  
3 GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNS THE COUNCIL NEEDS TO TAKE UP THE  
4 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDE LINES, AND SO WE WILL PROCEED.  
5 AND I'M SURE MR. SUBIN WILL BE BETTER, BUT I THINK HEALTH IS  
6 JOB ONE FOR ALL OF US. SO, MR. SHERER, GOOD MORNING. AND WHAT  
7 I WILL DO IS TURN IT OVER TO THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE.

8

9 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** THANK YOU. I STILL DON'T SEE-- DEBORAH  
10 IS HERE, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF MR. FIRESTINE IS COMING OR NOT.  
11 HE'LL BE HERE BY THE TIME WE FINISH IT. SPEAK VERY SLOWLY.

12

13 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** OKAY. WELL, CAN I DO SOMETHING HERE, MS.  
14 PRAISNER, BEFORE. I CAN START BY THANKING YOU. [ LAUGHTER ]

15

16 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** THAT WON'T TAKE LONG, MR. PEREZ!

17

18 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** LET ME TELL YOU HOW MUCH I WANT TO THANK  
19 YOU. LET ME COUNT THE WAYS. LET ME THINK. THERE'S ONE. NO.  
20 ACTUALLY, I REALLY...

21

22 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** ACTUALLY, MS. SEARS IS HERE. MAYBE WE  
23 CAN GET THE HEARING EXAMINER AND DO THAT ONE NEXT, IF WE ARE  
24 WAITING FOR MR. FIRESTINE.

25

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1 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** IF THE HEARING EXAMINER WERE HERE, I  
2 WOULD BE INCLINED TO TAKE THAT UP.

3

4 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** LET ME GET THE HEARING EXAMINER.

5

6 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** GET THE HEARING EXAMINER, BECAUSE I THINK  
7 THAT THAT MAY MOVE RELATIVELY EXPEDITIOUSLY AND SAVE THEM SOME  
8 TIME.

9

10 **SPEAKER:** IT LOOKS EXTREMELY BUMPY. CASEY AT THE BACK, WHILE  
11 WE'RE WAITING.

12

13 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** YES. [CROSS TALK]

14

15 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** OKAY. ARE WE WAITING FOR THE HEARING  
16 EXAMINER?

17

18 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** OKAY, WELL WHY DON'T WE DO THAT? BECAUSE  
19 I HAVE A FEELING THAT THAT IS GOING TO BE RELATIVELY QUICK.  
20 AND THAT WAY, MS. SEARS AND OTHERS WILL GO BACK TO THEIR  
21 COLLEAGUES SAYING WHAT AN EFFICIENT COUNTY COUNCIL THEY  
22 ENCOUNTERED. AS SOON AS I SAID THAT SHE LEFT THE ROOM. AS SOON  
23 AS I SAID THAT, SHE LEFT THE ROOM.

24



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1 **COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN:** AND HERE IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE ANDY  
2 PAFCO FAN CLUB. HE JUST WALKED IN. GENTLEMEN, ANDY PAFCO,  
3 RIGHT?

4

5 **COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN:** I WAS THE PRESIDENT OF THE MIKE  
6 BRUMLEY FAN CLUB, THE SENATOR.

7

8 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** ANDY CARY.

9

10 **SPEAKER:** MIKE BRUMLEY WAS SUCH A POOR CATCHER FOR THE SENATORS  
11 THAT I FIGURED I COULD CATCH AS WELL AS HE DID. THAT'S WHY I  
12 STARTED A FAN CLUB FOR HIM.

13

14 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** WELL, I THINK THAT OTHER ISSUE WILL TAKE  
15 FIVE MINUTES, SO LET'S-- THAT WAY WE DON'T-- IT'S ACTUALLY  
16 MORE-- WE SHOULD HAVE PUT THAT FIRST, TO BEGIN WITH.

17 [INAUDIBLE - OFF MIKE]

18

19 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** TALK AMONG YOURSELVES. I'M WORKING HARD  
20 RIGHT NOW.

21

22 **COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN:** THE YANKEES SCORED THIRTEEN RUNS IN  
23 THE SECOND INNING LAST NIGHT. 19 TO 8.

24

25 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** THEY DID?

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1

2 **SPEAKER:** YEAH.

3

4 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** NINETEEN TO EIGHT? WASN'T THAT THE SCORE  
5 OF THE LAST YANKEES GAME, THAT THEY BEAT THE RED SOX BY FOR  
6 THE--?

7

8 **SPEAKER:** YES. GAME THREE.

9

10 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** BEFORE THOSE OTHER GAMES.

11

12 **SPEAKER:** YES, WHATEVER.

13

14 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** WAS IT REALLY 19-8?

15

16 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** YES. THEY LIKE THAT, DON'T THEY?

17

18 **SPEAKER:** YEAH.

19

20 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** SO YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME A NATIONAL  
21 LEAGUE FAN, MR. SILVERMAN?

22

23 **SPEAKER:** ME?

24

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1 **COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN:** TWO LEAGUES. NO DESIGNATED HITTER.  
2 YES. FASTER GAMES. THIS IS THE LEAGUE THAT JACKIE ROBINSON  
3 BROKE INTO BASEBALL IN YOU KNOW, THE OLD BROOKLYN DODGERS.

4  
5 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** HERE WE GO.

6  
7 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** OKAY. WE THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE MORE  
8 EXPEDITIOUS. GOOD MORNING.

9  
10 **SPEAKER:** GOOD MORNING.

11  
12 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** TO DEAL WITH THIS. THIS IS AGENDA ITEM  
13 NUMBER SIX, CONSIDERATION OF HEARING EXAMINER'S REPORT AND  
14 RECOMMENDATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT DPA04-02. THE  
15 RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING STAFF IS TO APPROVE- THE  
16 PLANNING BOARD TO APPROVE. AND HEARING EXAMINER, THERE IS NO  
17 REPORT?

18  
19 **FRANCOISE CARRIER:** CORRECT.

20  
21 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** WHICH IS NOT A BAD THING. I JUST WANT--  
22 FOR THOSE KEEPING SCORE AT HOME, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT  
23 HEARING EXAMINER WAS ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH.

24

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1 **FRANCOISE CARRIER:** NO. IT MEANS THAT I WAS NOT ASKED TO DO A  
2 HEARING, AND SO I DIDN'T DO ONE.

3

4 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT THAT WAS  
5 CLEAR FOR PEOPLE. MS. PRAISNER?

6

7 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** IT WAS MY MOTION THAT, IN ESSENCE,  
8 REMANDED THIS SO THAT WE COULD HAVE FURTHER MODIFICATION ON  
9 THE GREEN SPACE ISSUES. AND I WOULD MOVE APPROVAL OF THE D.P.A.

10

11 **SPEAKER:** SECONDED.

12

13 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** OKAY. MOVED AND SECONDED. MADAM CLERK,  
14 PLEASE CALL THE ROLL.

15

16 **CLERK:** MR. DENIS?

17

18 **COUNCILMEMBER DENIS:** YES.

19

20 **CLERK:** MS. FLOREEN?

21

22 **COUNCILMEMBER FLOREEN:** YES.

23

24 **CLERK:** MR. SILVERMAN?

25

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1 COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN: YES.

2

3 CLERK: MR. KNAPP?

4

5 COUNCILMEMBER KNAPP: YES

6

7 >>CLERK: MR. ANDREWS?

8

9 COUNCILMEMBER ANDREWS: YES

10

11 CLERK: MS. PRAISNER?

12

13 COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER: YES

14

15 CLERK: MR. LEVENTHAL?

16

17 COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL: YES.

18

19 CLERK: MR. PEREZ?

20

21 COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ: YES. IT PASSES 8-0. THAT'S THE ONLY OTHER  
22 ITEM FOR DISTRICT COUNCIL SESSION. YOU WERE PHENOMENAL, MS.  
23 CARRIER.

24

25 SPEAKER: GREAT JOB.



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1

2 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** I HAVE SELDOM SEEN YOU MORE COGENT IN  
3 YOUR PRESENTATION.

4

5 **COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN:** LESS IS MORE.

6

7 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** LESS IS MORE. OKAY. SO, LET'S TURN BACK  
8 TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER FIVE, CONSIDERATION OF OUR SPENDING  
9 AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. I DO WANT TO, IN ALL SINCERITY,  
10 THANK MS. PRAISNER AND THE MEMBERS OF THE M.F.P. COMMITTEE FOR  
11 THEIR TYPICAL, VIGILANT WORK ON THE SPRING SPENDING  
12 AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. THEIR WORK AND TODAY'S SESSION,  
13 OBVIOUSLY, WILL CONTINUE OUR EXTENSIVE DIALOGUE WE HAVE BEGUN  
14 ON THE FISCAL CHOICES THAT WE ARE CONFRONTING. AND, AS I SAID  
15 LAST WEEK, I'M HOPEFUL THAT WE CAN CRAFT A BUDGET THAT IS BOTH  
16 FISCALLY AND MORALLY RESPONSIBLE, AND I DON'T BELIEVE THE TWO  
17 ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE AND ALTHOUGH I WOULD SAY THAT FEDERAL  
18 GOVERNMENT'S AND THE STATE GOVERNMENTS SEEM TO LACK BOTH.

19

20 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** IF THEY WOULD ONLY GIVE US A CHANCE TO  
21 PRINT MONEY, MAYBE WE COULD JUST--

22

23 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** REALLY. THIS CONTINUES TO BE TO BE A WORK  
24 IN PROGRESS, AND I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT  
25 TODAY'S VOTE IS ABOUT. TODAY'S VOTE IS THE CONTINUATION OF A

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1 PROCESS. AND I ACTUALLY WAS DOING A LITTLE RESEARCH ON THE  
2 NUMBER OF TIMES IN THE PAST 15 YEARS OR SO THAT THE FIGURES  
3 THAT WE SET TODAY WERE THE FIGURES THAT WE ACTUALLY CAME UP  
4 WITH ON THE FINAL VOTE OF THE BUDGET. AND THE SHORT ANSWER IS,  
5 MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, AND THIS INCLUDES YEARS WHERE WE WERE  
6 UNDER THE CHARTER LIMIT AND ABOVE THE CHARTER LIMIT. BUT, MORE  
7 OFTEN THAN NOT, WE END UP EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT THAT IS SET  
8 TODAY. SO, IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT TODAY'S VOTES  
9 AND DISCUSSION IS ABOUT AND WHAT IT'S NOT ABOUT. AND I THINK  
10 HAVING THAT HISTORICAL CONTEXT, FOR ME AT LEAST, WAS VERY  
11 USEFUL IN UNDERSTANDING THAT, WHILE THIS DEBATE WE WILL HAVE  
12 TODAY IS IMPORTANT, IT IS NOT THE END OF THE DISCUSSION. AND  
13 WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK HARD. I WANT TO THANK THE COMMITTEES  
14 FOR THE HARD WORK THAT THEY HAVE DONE TO DATE. WE'VE MADE SOME  
15 TOUGH CHOICES ALREADY. I KNOW, ON THE H.H.S. COMMITTEE, THE  
16 CHAIR HAS BEEN VERY VIGILANT IN TERMS OF TAKING A VERY CAREFUL  
17 LOOK AT EACH AND EVERY BUDGET. WE MADE SOME TOUGH CALLS  
18 YESTERDAY. WE DEALT WITH THE LIBRARY BUDGET, AND WE MADE SOME  
19 TOUGH DECISION REGARDING ISSUES THAT WE PUT ON THE  
20 RECONCILIATION LIST THAT I, FRANKLY, HAVE A LOT OF HEARTBURN  
21 ABOUT. BUT, RECOGNIZING THE- THE NEEDS THAT WE HAVE HERE IN  
22 TERMS OF PARING DOWN THE BUDGET, WE'VE DONE IT. AND I'M  
23 CONFIDENT THAT WE'RE GOING TO MEET THE REDUCTION TARGETS THAT  
24 WERE SET OUT IN THE MEMO THAT I SENT OUT A FEW WEEKS BACK. AND  
25 I THINK THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND. ONE THING

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1 THAT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR TO ME AS WE MOVE AHEAD IS THAT THE  
2 QUESTION-- I THINK IT'S PRETTY CLEAR THAT WE'RE GOING TO  
3 REDUCE THIS BUDGET. WE'RE GOING TO REDUCE THE BUDGET THAT WAS  
4 SENT OVER SUBSTANTially. SO THE ISSUE IS, REALLY, HOW MUCH  
5 WE'LL BE ABLE TO REDUCE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET BY. BUT  
6 IT'S CLEAR TO ME THAT THAT'S NOT A "WHETHER" QUESTION, IT'S A  
7 "HOW MUCH" QUESTION. AND I THINK THE WORK THAT WE'VE DONE TO  
8 DATE HAS SHOWN THE DISCIPLINE THAT EVERY COMMITTEE HAS  
9 EXERCISED IN CARRYING OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. AND SO, WE  
10 WILL CONTINUE TO WORK AND MAKE SURE THAT TARGET REDUCTIONS  
11 THAT WERE OUTLINED ARE A FLOOR AND NOT A CEILING. WE'LL  
12 CONTINUE TO FIND, I THINK, SAVINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR  
13 OWN PRIORITIES, BECAUSE IF HISTORY IS A GUIDE, EVERY YEAR WE  
14 HAVE PRIORITIES THAT DIFFER FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S AND  
15 THAT IS THE NATURE OF GOVERNMENT. AND ONE OF-- WE WILL ALSO BE  
16 HAVING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT WHETHER WE CAN PROVIDE NOT ONLY  
17 ACROSS-THE-BOARD TAX RELIEF, BUT ALSO THE ISSUE OF TARGETED  
18 RELIEF. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING TWO SPENDING AFFORDABILITY  
19 OPTIONS BEFORE US TODAY. MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THERE'S THE  
20 COMMITTEE MAJORITY REFLECTED BY MS. PRAISNER AND MR. ANDREWS,  
21 AND THEN ANOTHER PROPOSAL BY MR. DENIS. AGAIN, BOTH OF THE  
22 PROPOSALS WOULD REDUCE EXPENDITURES RECOMMENDED BY THE  
23 EXECUTIVE, AND BOTH PROPOSALS WOULD INCREASE PROPERTY TAX  
24 RELIEF RECOMMENDED BY THE EXECUTIVE. THE DIFFERENCE, AND THE  
25 DEBATE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TODAY AND OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS,

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1 IS BY HOW MUCH, AS I SAID EARLIER. SO, WHY DON'T WE MOVE  
2 FORWARD? AND I THINK THAT, AS WE MOVE FORWARD, IT'S IMPORTANT  
3 TO KEEP IN MIND, AT LEAST FOR ME, WHAT I HAVE LAID OUT BEFORE,  
4 WHICH IS I HOPE WE CAN CRAFT A BUDGET THAT IS BOTH FISCALLY  
5 AND MORALLY RESPONSIBLE, THAT TAKES IN ACCOUNT THE NEED TO  
6 PROVIDE TAX RELIEF BUT ALSO TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE REALITIES  
7 OF THE FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY IN ANNAPOLIS AND IN- ON CAPITOL  
8 HILL WHICH HAS LEFT US HOLDING THE BAG. AND THE BAG KEEPS  
9 GETTING HEAVIER AND HEAVIER. THERE IS UNANIMITY IN THAT WE  
10 CANNOT, OBVIOUSLY, BACKFILL EVERYTHING. WE'VE SAID THAT MANY  
11 TIMES. BUT THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS THAT WE NEED TO DO TO MAKE  
12 SURE THAT WE'RE PROVIDING THE CRITICAL SERVICES THAT WE ARE  
13 SUPPOSED TO BE PROVIDING. SO LET ME TURN TO MS. PRAISNER, THE  
14 CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE. AND AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR-- THANK YOU  
15 TO ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE M.F.P. COMMITTEE FOR ALL OF YOUR  
16 HARD WORK.

17

18 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** THANK YOU VERY MUCH. THE MANAGEMENT  
19 AND FISCAL POLICY COMMITTEE DID DISCUSS SPENDING AFFORDABILITY.  
20 WE DID SO IN THE CONTEXT OF ALSO REVIEWING THE ECONOMIC  
21 INDICATORS INFORMATION, WHICH WE REVIEW ON A REGULAR CYCLE  
22 WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, AND ALSO HAD A DISCUSSION WITH  
23 THE LONG TERM-- OF THE EXECUTIVE'S LONG TERM FISCAL PLAN. I'VE  
24 ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE FISCAL PLAN TO BE ABLE  
25 FOR US TO SEE, AS MUCH AS I GUESS YOU HAVE ASKED, MR. PEREZ,

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1 AND RECEIVED INFORMATION ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE  
2 COUNCIL'S SPENDING AFFORDABILITY NUMBERS AND THE ACTUAL  
3 ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL WHEN IT ADOPTS A BUDGET. I'VE ASKED FOR  
4 AN ASSESSMENT OF HOW MUCH, OR HOW THE FISCAL PLANS THAT WE'VE  
5 LOOKED AT OVER THE YEARS HAVE BEEN ACTUALLY COME TO FRUITION  
6 FROM A STANDPOINT OF THE ASSESSMENT OF REVENUES AND THE  
7 ASSESSMENT OF ALLOCATIONS FOR SPENDING. MY SENSE, WITHOUT THE  
8 DOCUMENT DONE, IS THAT WE HAVE EXPENDED MORE MONEY, OR THAT  
9 THE BUDGET LEVELS HAVE BEEN MUCH HIGHER THAN WHAT WAS  
10 INITIALLY ANTICIPATED IN THE FISCAL PLANS, BECAUSE THE FISCAL  
11 PLANS ARE MAJOR KNOWN COMMITMENTS AT THAT TIME, AND ALSO ARE  
12 BUILT ON THE MINIMUM BASE FOR AGENCY ALLOCATIONS. SO THEY ARE  
13 USEFUL, BUT IF WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO LOOK AT THE FISCAL  
14 PLAN, THE QUESTION IS HOW CAN WE CONTINUE TO REFINE IT? I  
15 WOULD ALSO PART THIS PROCESS BY REMINDING FOLKS THAT WE  
16 ALREADY HAVE SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES FOR THIS COMING  
17 YEAR. WE ADOPTED THEM IN DECEMBER. WITH THIS ACTION THIS  
18 SPRING, IS TO MAKE ANY MODIFICATIONS THAT WE WOULD WANT TO DO.  
19 IN MOST CASES THE COUNCIL HAS MADE MODIFICATIONS, BUT THIS IS  
20 AN AMENDING OF THOSE GUIDELINES. IT IS NOT THE ESTABLISHMENT  
21 OF GUIDELINES. THE COUNCIL DID THAT ESTABLISHMENT IN DECEMBER.  
22 SO, GUIDELINES EXIST. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER WE MODIFY IT,  
23 MODIFY THOSE GUIDELINES BASED ON NEW INFORMATION THAT MAY HAVE  
24 BEEN GENERATED SINCE THE DECEMBER PROCESS. AS THE STAFF, WHEN  
25 WE DEAL WITH CAPITAL BUDGET AS WELL AS OPERATING BUDGET,



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1 REMIND US, THE REFLECTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS ARE TO BE BASED  
2 ON REVENUE INFORMATION, NOT ON-- AND THE REALTY OF WHAT'S  
3 AFFORDABLE, NOR ON WHAT MIGHT BE THE LITANY OF NEEDS THAT WE  
4 MAY HAVE HEARD BECAUSE-- OR DESIRES FOR FUNDING. THE SPENDING  
5 AFFORDABILITY PROCESS IS NOT TO REFLECT BECAUSE, AS WE ALL  
6 KNOW, THERE ARE ALWAYS SIGNIFICANTLY MORE NEEDS THAN ONE'S  
7 CHECKBOOK OR CAPACITY TO MEET. WITH THAT IN MIND, THE MAJORITY  
8 OF THE COMMITTEE-- I'LL JUST, BRIEFLY, GO THROUGH THE TWO  
9 MAJOR ELEMENTS THAT WE ACTUALLY HAVE REQUIREMENTS ASSOCIATED  
10 WITH. THE OTHER ELEMENT RELATED TO AGENCIES IS NOT A MANDATORY  
11 PIECE AND IS INTERNAL TO OUR ACTIONS, AND REALLY DOES NOT HAVE  
12 THE KIND OF BINDING ELEMENT THAT THE AGGREGATE OPERATING  
13 BUDGET AND THE PROPERTY TAX REVENUE ESTIMATES AND RATE LIMIT  
14 ISSUES HAVE ASSOCIATED WITH IT. THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE  
15 CONTINUES TO RECOMMEND THE SPENDING AFFORDABILITY NUMBER THAT  
16 IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COUNCIL'S ACTION IN DECEMBER, USING THE  
17 CHARTER LIMIT FOR PROPERTY TAX. THE DOLLAR AMOUNT IS MODIFIED,  
18 BUT THE POLICY DECISION IS NOT CHANGED WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S  
19 ACTION BASED ON THE LATEST INFORMATION OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUE.  
20 BUT, THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION IS TO SET  
21 THE PROPERTY TAX AT THE CHARTER LIMIT, WHICH IS A REDUCTION OF  
22 \$62.5 MILLION IN THE ESTIMATE OR THE NUMBER THAT THE EXECUTIVE  
23 USED TO PUT TOGETHER HIS BUDGET. THE COMMITTEE ALSO  
24 RECOMMENDED KEEPING THE ENERGY TAX AT THE SAME LEVEL, THE  
25 CURRENT RATES IN PLACE. THAT IS SOMEWHAT OF A MODIFICATION AND

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1 I THINK THE COMMITTEE MAJORITY VIEW WAS THAT, GIVEN THE  
2 MAGNITUDE OF THE IMPLICATIONS AND ALSO THE PRIORITY FOCUS IN  
3 REDUCING PROPERTY TAX, PROVIDING PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, THAT  
4 CONTINUING THE CURRENT RATES AND NOT SUNSETTING IT, CONSISTENT  
5 WITH WHAT THE EXECUTIVE HAS ALSO PROPOSED, IS A REASONABLE  
6 ACCOMMODATION TO WHAT WE ORIGINALLY HAD ANTICIPATED. I DON'T  
7 THINK, WHEN THE ENERGY TAX WAS RAISED ORIGINALLY AND THE  
8 SUNSET WAS ADDED TO THAT, THAT THERE WAS ANY INDICATION THAT  
9 THE ASSESSMENTS WOULD ESCALATE AS MUCH AS THEY HAVE FROM THE  
10 PROPERTY TAX AND THAT CONCERN, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS, AT THAT  
11 TIME, CONCERN ABOUT THE PROPERTY TAXES AS AN ELEMENT. THE  
12 THIRD ELEMENT IS THE ASSUMPTIONS OF REVENUE FROM A STATE STATE  
13 AND FEDERAL AID PERSPECTIVE. AND IN THIS CASE, ALTHOUGH WE  
14 DON'T HAVE-- IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH MELANIE WENGER AND THE  
15 OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, WE DON'T HAVE ALL OF  
16 THE INFORMATION. WE DO AT LEAST KNOW, FROM THE ONE MAJOR ISSUE  
17 WHICH THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE ALSO INCORPORATED WITHIN HIS  
18 DELIBERATIONS, THAT THE SCHOOL SYSTEM WILL NOT BE RECEIVING  
19 THE \$12.1 MILLION FROM THE GEOGRAPHIC COST OF EDUCATION. FOR  
20 SOME REASON, OUR LEGISLATORS AND THE GOVERNOR REFUSE TO  
21 ACKNOWLEDGE OR REFUSE TO MAKE THE FULL COMMITMENT OF THE  
22 THORTON COMMISSION WHICH HAD, AS AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT THEREOF,  
23 THE COST OF EDUCATION INDEX. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME FUNDING  
24 FOR THAT BEFORE THE FORMULA WAS FULLY DEVELOPED IN THE INITIAL  
25 BUDGET SEVERAL YEARS AGO, THERE HAS NOT BEEN GEOGRAPHIC COST

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1 OF EDUCATION FUNDING SINCE THE GOVERNOR DIDN'T HAVE WHAT SOME  
2 MIGHT DESCRIBE AS DISCRETION, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO FORMULA.  
3 ONCE THE FORMULA WAS ADOPTED, I BELIEVE AND I THINK OTHERS  
4 JOIN ME IN INDICATING, THAT THE GOVERNOR SHOULD HAVE INCLUDED,  
5 IF HE IS TRULY COMMITTED TO FULL FUNDING OF THORNTON, SHOULD  
6 HAVE INCLUDED THE GEOGRAPHIC COST OF EDUCATION. IT IS NOT JUST  
7 A MONTGOMERY COUNTY ISSUE. THERE ARE, I THINK, 12  
8 JURISDICTIONS THAT WOULD BENEFIT FROM THAT ADDITIONAL FUNDING.  
9 IT IS NOT TAKING MONEY FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS IN EDUCATION.  
10 IT IS MEETING THE THORNTON COMMITMENTS. BECAUSE THE \$12.1  
11 MILLION IS NOT THERE IN THE EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET, AS YOU RECALL  
12 WAS PREDICATED ON AN APPROPRIATION THAT ASSUMED THAT MONEY.  
13 THE COMMITTEE MAJORITY FELT THAT IT COULD NOT INCORPORATE- HAD  
14 NO CHOICE BUT TO RECOGNIZE THE STATE'S FAILURE TO FUND THE  
15 GEOGRAPHIC COST OF EDUCATION. AND THE COMMITTEE MAJORITY  
16 RECOMMEND THAT THAT ISSUE BE REFLECTED IN THE REVENUE  
17 ASSUMPTIONS. MR. DENIS FELT THAT, IF THERE IS THAT ASSUMPTION,  
18 WE SHOULD ACCOMMODATE IN OTHER WAYS THAT REDUCTION. WE ALSO  
19 FOUND THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME ADDITIONAL MONEY IN RESERVE  
20 BECAUSE OF ASSUMPTIONS OF ENDING THE YEAR BALANCES IN OUR  
21 AGENCIES, WHICH WE INCORPORATED WITHIN TO THE BUDGET. THERE  
22 ARE GOING TO BE, WE'VE SEEN SOME INTRODUCED TODAY, OVER \$27  
23 MILLION, OR ABOUT \$27 MILLION I SHOULD SAY, IN SUPPLEMENTAL  
24 APPROPRIATIONS IN FY05 WHICH WE-- I THINK, AS WE GO THROUGH  
25 THE BUDGET PROCESS, WE'LL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY AS THE

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1 COMMITTEES REVIEW THOSE SUPPLEMENTALS, TO REALLY DECIDE  
2 WHETHER WE WANT TO APPROVE THOSE SUPPLEMENTALS OR NOT AND WHAT  
3 ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THAT. OBVIOUSLY, SOME OF THOSE  
4 SUPPLEMENTALS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH OVERTIME PAYMENTS, AND  
5 PERHAPS THERE'S LITTLE OR NO CHOICE FOR THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON  
6 THOSE ISSUES. SOME OTHER SUPPLEMENTALS MAY BE ONES WHERE THE  
7 QUESTION IS WHAT BELT-TIGHTENING MIGHT BE ASSOCIATED BEFORE  
8 THE END OF THE BUDGET YEAR TO ABSORB SOME OF THOSE COSTS. BUT  
9 TO THE EXTENT THE COUNCIL DOES NOT APPROVE THOSE SUPPLEMENTALS,  
10 THE MONEY MIGHT BE AVAILABLE OR IT MIGHT BE USED WITHIN THE--  
11 THERE MIGHT BE SOME OTHER IMPLICATIONS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL  
12 DEPARTMENTS AS A RESULT OF THAT. WE HAVE HAD FLUCTUATING  
13 INFORMATION ON DEBT SERVICE. AND I THINK THE COUNCIL ALL GOT  
14 AN E-MAIL FROM MR. SHERER THAT TAX-SUPPORTED DEBT SERVICE, WE  
15 WERE FIRST TOLD WOULD BE ABOUT A MILLION DOLLARS-- ABOUT A  
16 MILLION, FIFTY LESS IN THE BUDGET, THEREFORE WE COULD REDUCE  
17 THE DEBT SERVICE BY THAT AMOUNT BECAUSE THERE IS-- IT HAD NOT  
18 BEEN CALCULATED WITH THE RIGHT INFORMATION INITIALLY. THEN WE  
19 WERE TOLD THAT WAS NOT TRUE, THAT A SECOND REFLECTION  
20 INDICATED THAT THE DEBT SERVICE AS REFLECTED BY THE EXECUTIVE  
21 WAS ACCURATE. WE'VE SINCE LEARNED IN AN EMAIL I BELIEVE, MR.  
22 SHERER, THAT THERE IS \$1 MILLION, OR NO? I'M NOT SURE WHERE  
23 THAT IS.

24  
25 **CHUCK SHERER:** WELL, NOT FROM ME. NOT FROM ME.

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1

2 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** NO, THERE ISN'T? OKAY. ALL RIGHT. SO,  
3 THERE ISN'T ANY ADDITIONAL DEBT SERVICE MODIFICATIONS THAT CAN  
4 BE MADE. FINE. I JUST WASN'T SURE WHERE WE WERE WITH THAT.  
5 WITH THAT, THOSE ARE THE MODIFICATIONS THAT THE COMMITTEE MADE  
6 RELATIVE TO THE TWO MAJOR ISSUES. AS YOU INDICATED,  
7 ADJUSTMENTS AMONG AGENCIES ARE A FUNCTION OF FINAL ACTIONS  
8 THAT THE COUNCIL MAY TAKE AND ARE NOT REALLY BINDING. OUR  
9 GUIDANCE TO THE COUNCIL AS IT REVIEWS THE BUDGET ARE NOT  
10 BINDING WITH THE SAME IMPACT, LEGALLY, AS THE PROPERTY TAX  
11 AMOUNT AND THE TOTAL AGGREGATE BUDGET. SO, THE COMMITTEE IS  
12 RECOMMENDING ADJUSTING THOSE TWO ITEMS FROM THE INITIAL  
13 ACTIONS TAKEN IN DECEMBER, WHICH ARE OUR SPENDING  
14 AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES AT THIS POINT. SO, ABSENT THE  
15 COMMITTEE MAKING ANY RECOMMENDATIONS, THOSE GUIDELINES ADOPTED  
16 IN DECEMBER WOULD BE THE GUIDELINES THAT WE HAVE. AND WITH  
17 THAT, BEFORE WE-- AND MR. DENIS, AS WAS INDICATED, RECOMMENDS  
18 JUST-- THE ONLY MODIFICATION-- THE ONLY MAJOR MODIFICATION IS  
19 MR. DENIS' ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE REVENUE COMING FROM PROPERTY  
20 TAX. BEFORE I TURN TO WHATEVER COMMITTEE MEMBERS MIGHT WANT TO  
21 HAVE ANY COMMENTS, I THINK IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT IN THE  
22 INTEREST OF ALL OF US HAVING FULL DISCLOSURE OF ALL  
23 INFORMATION, MR. PEREZ, TO INDICATE THAT THIS IS A MONUMENTAL  
24 DAY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENT, AS WE SEE OUR

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1 DEPARTMENT FINANCE DIRECTOR MOVING INTO THE SENIOR CITIZEN  
2 CATEGORIES BY TURNING 50 TODAY.

3

4 **SPEAKER:** SHOW US YOUR CARD! [ LAUGHTER ]

5

6 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** SO I THINK, WHILE WE THANK HIM FOR ALL  
7 OF THE WORK HE'S DONE AS HE'S AGED IN PLACE IN MONTGOMERY  
8 COUNTY, IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR ME LET THIS DAY GO BY  
9 WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGING MR. FIRESTINE'S MONUMENTAL BIRTHDAY.  
10 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TIM

11

12 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** HARD TO IMAGINE A NICER WAY TO SPEND YOUR  
13 DAY, YOUR 50TH BIRTHDAY. ARE YOU GOING TO THAT ROOT CANAL  
14 APPOINTMENT AFTER THIS?

15

16 **MR. FIRESTINE:** THAT GRAY STRETCH WAS NOT THERE YESTERDAY.

17

18 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** WHY DON'T WE STAY WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE  
19 COMMITTEE, GIVEN THE HARD WORK YOU DID, MR. ANDREWS, AND THEN  
20 I'LL TURN TO MR. DENIS.

21

22 **COUNCILMEMBER ANDREWS:** THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WANT TO  
23 THANK THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE FOR HER WORK VERY THOROUGH  
24 WORK ON THIS AS ALWAYS, AND THANK ALL THOSE WHO PROVIDED VERY  
25 DETAILED INFORMATION ON WHICH THE COMMITTEE MADE ITS DECISIONS.



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1 YOU KNOW, AS LARGE AS THIS BUDGET IS, IT'S BIGGER THAN IT  
2 LOOKS. AND I'LL USE AN EXAMPLE THAT I'M FAMILIAR WITH, AND  
3 THAT'S THE PROPOSAL IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. THERE ARE 52 NEW  
4 POSITIONS PROPOSED IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR FY06. TWENTY-  
5 FIVE OF THOSE POSITIONS ONLY PROPOSE TO BE PARTIALLY FUNDED IN  
6 FY06 BECAUSE THEY WOULD START MIDWAY OR LATE IN THE YEAR. SO,  
7 TO UNDERSTAND THE FULL IMPACT OF THE BUDGET, YOU HAVE TO  
8 CALCULATE WHAT THOSE COSTS WOULD BE WHEN FULLY PHASED IN, AND  
9 THE IMPACT IS SUBSTANTIAL. SO, WHEN YOU LOOK AT THIS BUDGET,  
10 YOU HAVE TO REALIZE IT UNDERSTATES THE IMPACT IT WILL HAVE IN  
11 THE SUCCEEDING YEARS. THE SKYROCKETING ASSESSMENTS THAT WE'VE  
12 TALKED ABOUT OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS HAVE NOT SLOWED.  
13 THERE WAS SOME THOUGHT THAT THEY WOULD TAIL OFF A BIT, BUT  
14 WE'VE NOW HAD THREE STRAIGHT YEARS OF ASSESSMENTS OF WELL OVER  
15 40% ON AVERAGE. AND LAST YEAR'S AVERAGE ASSESSMENTS OF 69%  
16 WERE A RECORD, AS FAR AS THE RECORDS GO BACK. IT DOES NOT  
17 APPEAR THAT WE'RE SEE ANY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE ASSESSMENTS  
18 IN THE THAT OCCUR THIS SUMMER. IN ANY EVENT, THE FOLKS THAT  
19 ARE GOING TO BE FOOTING THIS BILL ARE GOING TO BE LOOKING AT  
20 INCREASES OF 10% OR SO YEAR AFTER YEAR, UNLESS WE GET A HANDLE  
21 ON THAT AND PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. THERE ARE  
22 OTHER REASONS WHY WE SHOULD BE TRYING TO KEEP THE PROPERTY TAX  
23 RATE AS LOW AS FEASIBLE IN ADDITION TO THE ASSESSMENTS THAT  
24 ARE SKYROCKETING, AND THAT IS THAT THE PROPERTY TAX IS MORE  
25 REGRESSIVE THAN THE OTHER TAXES THAT WE HAVE IN MONTGOMERY

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1 COUNTY, AT LEAST MOST OF THEM. IT IS NOT BASED ON AN ABILITY  
2 TO PAY, AND SO FOLKS WHO HAVE VERY LIMITED INCOMES OR HAVE  
3 INCOMES ARE SEEING THEIR PROPERTY TAX-- ARE STILL RECEIVING,  
4 WORKING AND RECEIVING INCOME-- ARE SEEING THEIR PROPERTY TAX  
5 INCREASES GO UP MUCH FASTER THAN THEIR INCOMES ARE. AND SO,  
6 FOR POLICY REASONS, WE SHOULD BE WORKING TO KEEP THE PROPERTY  
7 TAX LOW, AS WELL AS TO ABIDE BY THE CHARTER LIMIT AND TO  
8 RESPOND TO THE SKYROCKETING ASSESSMENTS. BUT THE IMPACT OF THE  
9 YEAR AFTER YEAR DOUBLE-DIGIT, OR DOUBLE INCREASES IN THE  
10 PROPERTY TAX COMPARED TO THE INFLATION RATE, CREATES A MIDDLE-  
11 CLASS CRUNCH. AND THAT IS SOMETHING THAT WE NEED TO BE VERY  
12 SENSITIVE TO, AGAIN, BECAUSE THE PAYMENTS THAT ARE REQUIRED  
13 ARE GOING UP FASTER THAN INCOMES ARE. NOW, THE COUNCIL HAS TO  
14 BE VERY CAREFUL IN TAKING ON COMMITMENTS IN THIS BUDGET THAT  
15 WILL MAKE DECISIONS IN THE FUTURE TO ADDRESS THE BUDGET VERY  
16 DIFFICULT TO MAKE A FAIR OR RESPONSIBLE BUDGET. I'M VERY  
17 INTERESTED, AS COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ IS, IN DEVELOPING A BUDGET  
18 THAT IS MORALLY AND FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE. I THINK, IF THE  
19 COUNCIL ADOPTS A BUDGET THAT IS UNSUSTAINABLE, IT WILL HAVE  
20 FAILED BOTH TESTS. THAT, I THINK, HAS TO BE KEPT FOREMOST IN  
21 MIND. THE FINAL THING I WOULD SAY IS THAT THIS IS A BUDGET  
22 THAT WILL PROBABLY CHANGE SOMEWHAT OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS,  
23 BUT ULTIMATELY WE HAVE TO GET THE AGREEMENT HERE OF SEVEN  
24 COUNCILMEMBERS IN ORDER TO PASS THIS BUDGET. THIS IS A BUDGET  
25 THAT, IN ANY SCENARIO, IS A SEVEN VOTE BUDGET. AND WE HAVE TO

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1 COME UP WITH A BUDGET THAT IS RESPONSIBLE, THAT RESPECTS THE  
2 CHARTER LIMIT, THAT MAINTAINS POLICY OF KEEPING THE PROPERTY  
3 TAX RATE AT A REASONABLE LEVEL, AND THAT IS SUSTAINABLE. I  
4 SPOKE YESTERDAY ABOUT MY CONCERNS AND MY OPPOSITION TO THE  
5 CONTRACT THAT COUNTY EXECUTE HAS AGREED TO WITH THE  
6 FIREFIGHTERS. BECAUSE, ONE, IT WOULD ESTABLISH A 20-YEAR  
7 RETIREMENT, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, WHICH  
8 I THINK IS VERY MUCH AGAINST THE PUBLIC INTEREST. WE WANT OUR  
9 FIREFIGHTERS TO STAY. WE DON'T WANT TO INDUCE THEM TO LEAVE  
10 EARLY. AND SECOND, THE FISCAL COST IS \$40 MILLION OVER THREE  
11 YEARS. NOW, THAT IS A HUGE BILL, AND WE CAN EXPECT THAT WE  
12 COULD SEE SIMILAR REQUESTS FROM OUR OTHER DEDICATED BARGAINING  
13 UNITS AS WELL. AND THAT HAS TO BE WEIGHED AGAINST WHAT THE  
14 COUNCIL AND THE COUNTY CAN AFFORD TO SUSTAIN OVER A PERIOD OF  
15 YEARS. SO, THOSE ARE MY COMMENTS ABOUT THE COMMITTEE  
16 RECOMMENDATIONS AND WHERE WE ARE. I THINK THE BIG TEST FOR THE  
17 COUNCIL THIS YEAR IS TO ADOPT A SUSTAINABLE BUDGET THAT MEETS  
18 MR. PEREZ'S GOAL OF BOTH BEING MORALLY AND FISCALLY  
19 RESPONSIBLE.

20  
21 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** THANK YOU, MR. ANDREWS. MR. DENIS?

22  
23 **COUNCILMEMBER DENIS:** THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WANT TO THANK  
24 MY CHAIR, MRS. PRAISNER, FOR THE COURTESY IN GIVING ME  
25 LATITUDE TO PRESENT A MINORITY REPORT AT SOME LENGTH WHEN WE

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1 HAD OUR DELIBERATIONS, AND TO EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF  
2 IT. I APPRECIATE THAT VERY MUCH, AND HER KIND COMMENTS AT THE  
3 TIME AND SINCE. AND, ALSO, TO MR. ANDREWS, I CERTAINLY RESPECT  
4 THE VIEWS OF MY COLLEAGUES ON THE COMMITTEE. I DO HAVE A  
5 SUBSTITUTE MOTION I'D LIKE TO PRESENT. FIRST, I JUST WOULD  
6 LIKE TO COMMENT ON A FEW THINGS THAT JUST POPPED INTO MY HEAD.  
7 AND THE FIRST IS WHAT AL GRUBER SAID WHEN HE WAS HERE JUST A  
8 FEW MOMENTS AGO TO RECEIVE A PROCLAMATION THAT MR. SILVERMAN  
9 WAS KIND ENOUGH TO OFFER. I THINK HIS WORDS ARE REALLY THE  
10 AUTHENTIC VOICE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY. SOMEONE WHO REALLY GETS  
11 IT, THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TAXES THAT WE HATE AND THE  
12 SERVICES THAT WE LOVE. I REMEMBER YEARS AGO, AL GRUBER  
13 ACTUALLY WORKED WITH MY MOTHER WHEN SHE WAS EXECUTIVE-- WHEN  
14 SHE RAN THE 1400 FENWICK BUILDING FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY  
15 AND THEN THE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION. THE BUILDING  
16 WAS VERY CLEVERLY CALLED 1400 FENWICK BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THE  
17 ADDRESS WAS. IT'S SINCE BEEN RENAMED AS THE ELIZABETH HOUSE  
18 AFTER BETTY SCULL, WHO SERVED ON THIS COUNCIL WITH SUCH  
19 DISTINCTION, AS DID HER HUSBAND, AS DID HER SON. BUT I  
20 REMEMBER WHEN MY MOTHER WOULD HAVE MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY  
21 COUNCIL COMING OVER TO 1400 FENWICK AND THE ELIZABETH HOUSE,  
22 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND SO ON,  
23 BASICALLY ASKING FOR HELP, ASKING FOR RESOURCES AND AT THE  
24 SAME TIME, PROVIDING AN AUDIENCE FOR PEOPLE TO ADDRESS, WHICH  
25 THEY FREQUENTLY DID. AND IT JUST OCCURRED TO ME THEN THAT

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1 ITEMS SUCH AS THAT COME IN UNDER THE RADAR SCREEN AND DO NOT  
2 GET THE ATTENTION THAT THEY DESERVE. AND IF WE ON THE COUNCIL  
3 DO NOT GIVE THEM PROPER ATTENTION, I THINK THAT WE'RE GOING TO  
4 LEAVE A LOT OF GOOD SERVICES BEHIND IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY. I DO  
5 HAVE A SPREADSHEET THAT IS ON CIRCLE FIVE OF THE PACKET. I  
6 WANT TO THANK STAFF FOR HELPING TO PREPARE IT. I ALSO WANT TO  
7 COMMENT ON THE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE THAT CAME OUT APRIL  
8 12TH, PARTICULARLY THE CHART THAT LISTED MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
9 BECAUSE I WAS STRUCK BY WHAT MR. ANDREWS SAID IN HIS REFERENCE  
10 TO PUBLIC SAFETY SPENDING. AND IN WHICH THIS CHART YOU HAD,  
11 RIGHT BELOW "EDUCATION," THE "PER PUPIL" THAT I THINK, PERHAPS,  
12 WE'RE MORE FAMILIAR WITH. WE'RE MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE  
13 EDUCATION BUDGET BECAUSE IT'S ROUGHLY HALF OF THE BUDGET. AND  
14 AS A MEMBER OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, I'M CERTAINLY QUITE  
15 FAMILIAR WITH IT. BUT RIGHT UNDER THERE WAS PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
16 SURE ENOUGH, THE 2001 BUDGET WAS \$264 MILLION, 2006, \$410  
17 MILLION. THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY! WE ALWAYS WANT TO LOOK FOR  
18 SAVINGS AND IF WE CAN PARE IT DOWN, WE SHOULD AND WE ALWAYS  
19 HAVE. WE'VE ALWAYS DONE THAT WITH EVERY BUDGET. BUT PUBLIC  
20 SAFETY, FOR SOME REASON, AND HOMELAND SECURITY HAVE NOT GOTTEN  
21 THE ATTENTION I THINK THAT THEY DESERVE IN THIS BUDGET AND IN  
22 RECENT BUDGETS. AND THE YEAR USED AS THE FIRST MARKER IN THIS  
23 CHART IS SIGNIFICANT, 2001, BECAUSE OF 9/11 2001. AND THAT'S  
24 WHEN YOU HAD THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET AND THE HOMELAND  
25 SECURITY BUDGET START TO GROW AND BECOME ENORMOUS. AND WE NEED

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1 IT, BECAUSE WE LIVE IN THE WASHINGTON REGION AND WE KNOW THAT  
2 WE'RE A TARGET, AND WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER  
3 COMMUNITIES IN THE WASHINGTON AREA. AND WE SUPPLIED HELP ON  
4 9/11, AND WE'LL SUPPLY HELP IN THE FUTURE IF ANOTHER HORRIBLE  
5 CONTINGENCY ARISES. BUT WHETHER YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE  
6 SNIPER, WHETHER YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT BIOTERRORISM, WHATEVER  
7 YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, THERE'S A REASON THAT THESE BUDGETS HAVE  
8 GROWN. THE REASON IS SAFETY. PUBLIC SAFETY, WHICH REALLY IS  
9 THE SAME THING AS SAYING PERSONAL SAFETY. AND SO I THINK, AS  
10 WE TALK ABOUT THESE LARGER ISSUES THAT WE PERHAPS ARE MORE  
11 FAMILIAR WITH, I DON'T THINK THAT WE SHOULD OVERLOOK THE FACT  
12 THAT THE PUBLIC SAFETY/HOMELAND SECURITY ASPECT OF THIS BUDGET  
13 IS SIGNIFICANT FOR A REASON. THE OTHER REFERENCE I'D LIKE TO  
14 MAKE IS TO AN ARTICLE THAT I SAW WRITTEN BY TOM STUCKEY, WHO  
15 IS THE DEAN OF THE ANNAPOLIS PRESS CORPS. HE'S BEEN THERE SO  
16 LONG, HE WAS ACTUALLY THERE WHEN I FIRST GOT THERE.

17  
18 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** HE'S GETTING A PROCLAMATION.

19  
20 **COUNCILMEMBER DENIS:** HE NEEDS A PROCLAMATION! AND HE WROTE AN  
21 ARTICLE FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF THIS YEAR'S BUDGET. AND HE HAD  
22 ONE PARAGRAPH THAT I THINK-- IF THAT'S MY STOCKBROKER TELL HIM  
23 TO SELL. [ LAUGHTER ]



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1 **COUNCILMEMBER DENIS:** BUT HE HAD THIS PARAGRAPH IN HIS STORY.  
2 IT'S A VERY SHORT PARAGRAPH. "IN MR. ERLICH'S ATTEMPT TO  
3 BALANCE THE BUDGET TWO YEARS AGO, SHORTLY AFTER COMING INTO  
4 OFFICE AND FACING A BIG DEFICIT, HE PROPOSED AN INCREASE FROM  
5 8.4 CENTS PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUE TO 13.2 CENTS. THE HOUSE  
6 WANTED TO RETURN THE TAX RATE TO 8.4 CENTS, THAT'S THIS YEAR,  
7 BUT SENATE FISCAL LEADERS AGREED WITH THE GOVERNOR THAT THE  
8 STATE'S FINANCES ARE STILL TOO PRECARIOUS TO FOREGO THE \$160  
9 MILLION IN REVENUE." I THINK THAT'S VERY SIGNIFICANT. I GUESS  
10 I AM FROM THE OLD SCHOOL, BUT I THINK WE'D ALL BE BETTER OFF  
11 IF THE HARDCORE POLITICS WERE RESERVED TO AFTER SINE DIE, IN  
12 THE FOURTH YEAR OF THE QUADRENNIUM. THERE'S A REASON THAT--  
13 THE STATE PROPERTY TAX, AS FEW PEOPLE KNOW, IS THE STEADY AND  
14 RELIABLE REVENUE SOURCE TO PAY OFF THE INTEREST ON THE STATE  
15 BONDS. AND IT'S ONE OF THE REASONS THAT THE STATE ENJOYS A AAA  
16 BOND RATING IN GOOD YEARS AND BAD EVEN THOUGH THE BUDGET, IN  
17 RECENT YEARS, HAS BEEN ON A ROLLER COASTER, AND VERY OFTEN IT  
18 GOES UP AND DOWN AND SIDEWAYS. SO, THERE'S A REASON THAT THESE  
19 THINGS HAPPEN AND I THINK, ON BOTH SIDES, TO THE EXTENT THERE  
20 ARE TWO SIDES IN ANNAPOLIS, I THINK THERE SHOULD BE A  
21 RECOGNITION TO THAT AS TO WHY IT WAS DONE, AND THE REASON- THE  
22 DIFFICULTY IN MAKING ANY CHANGES . THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
23 COULD REDUCE THE STATE PROPERTY TAX. WE HOPE THEY DO. PEOPLE  
24 HAVE CALLED FOR THE STATE PROPERTY TAX TO GO DOWN 5 CENTS. IT  
25 WOULD BE NICE IF IT DID. IT CERTAINLY WOULD MAKE IT EASIER ON

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1 US IF THE HOUSE VERSION OF THE BUDGET HAD BEEN ADOPTED, BUT  
2 THERE IS A REASON WHY THINGS HAPPEN. IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF  
3 GETTING POLITICALLY ATTACKED, WELL, MAYBE THAT REDUCES YOUR  
4 INTEREST IN TACKLING SOME OF THESE DIFFICULT ISSUES. AND I  
5 THINK IT'S ALSO SIGNIFICANT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION DID RAISE  
6 THE PROPERTY TAX. I MEAN, THEY DID IT FOR A REASON, AND IT HAS  
7 IMPLICATIONS FOR US. IF THE PROPERTY TAX WAS LOWERED AT THE  
8 STATE LEVEL, IT WOULD ALSO HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR US NO  
9 QUESTION ABOUT IT. BECAUSE YOU HAVE THE STATE PROPERTY TAX,  
10 THE COUNTY PROPERTY TAX, AND OTHER FEES THAT GO INTO THE  
11 ACTUAL BILL THAT PEOPLE PAY. AND NOW, TO MY SUBSTITUTE  
12 AMENDMENT. AS I DID IN COMMITTEE ON APRIL 14, I WOULD LIKE TO  
13 OFFER A SUBSTITUTE MOTION FOR THE AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES FOR  
14 FY '06. MY ONE DIFFERENCE WITH THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION IS  
15 THE LEVEL OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUE WE ASSUME. ALL OF US WOULD  
16 LIKE SET PROPERTY TAX RATES SO THAT WE GET AS CLOSE AS  
17 POSSIBLE TO THE CHARTER LIMIT ON PROPERTY TAX REVENUE, WHILE  
18 ADDRESSING OUR OBLIGATIONS AND SERVICE NEEDS. AS I'VE OFTEN  
19 SAID, WE NEED TO BALANCE THE TAXES WE HATE AGAINST THE  
20 SERVICES THAT WE LOVE. THE EXECUTIVE HAS PROPOSED CUTTING TWO  
21 CENTS FROM THE PROPERTY TAX RATE, FOREGOING \$42 MILLION IN  
22 REVENUE. FOR AN OWNER OCCUPIED HOME CURRENTLY ASSESSED AT  
23 \$400,000 THIS WOULD MEAN A SAVINGS OF \$88 COMPARED TO STAYING  
24 AT CURRENT RATES. THE CHARTER LIMIT WOULD REQUIRE CUTTING 7.2  
25 CENTS FROM CURRENT RATES AND WOULD MEAN A SAVINGS OF \$318. I

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1 PROPOSE THAT WE SET THE RATE HALFWAY BETWEEN CURRENT RATES AND  
2 THE CHARTER LIMIT. THIS WOULD MEAN A SAVINGS OF \$159 COMPARED  
3 TO CURRENT RATES, OR \$71 MORE IN SAVINGS THAN THE EXECUTIVE.  
4 WE WOULD BE CUTTING THE RATE BY 3.6 CENTS UNDER MY PROPOSAL  
5 RATHER THAN THE TWO CENTS PROPOSED BY THE EXECUTIVE, NEARLY  
6 DOUBLING HIS PROPOSED CUT. I OFFER THIS MOTION FOR TWO REASONS.  
7 FIRST, MY MOTION IS EXACTLY WHAT THE COMMITTEE MAJORITY  
8 PROPOSED IN DECEMBER! THE PROPOSAL THEN WAS TO GO HALFWAY FROM  
9 CURRENT RATES TO THE CHARTER LIMIT. MY MOTION DOES EXACTLY  
10 THAT. SECOND, I BELIEVE THAT MY MOTION STRIKES THE RIGHT  
11 BALANCE BETWEEN PROVIDING PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, WHICH WE ALL  
12 WANT TO DO, AND MEETING THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS FOR COUNTY  
13 SERVICES. WE ALSO, IN THE COMMITTEE, AGREED TO ADD \$3.4  
14 MILLION TO REVENUES FROM ADDITIONAL M.C.P.S. RESERVES FROM  
15 FY05. SO THE ONLY DISAGREEMENT, THE MAJOR DISAGREEMENT, IS IT  
16 ON THE PROPERTY TAX RATE. YOU WILL SEE FROM THE REVISED  
17 SPREADSHEET ON CIRCLE 5 FIVE THAT I ASKED STAFF TO PRODUCE,  
18 THAT MY MOTION IN THE APPROPRIATE COLUMN WOULD REDUCE PROPERTY  
19 TAX REVENUE BY \$19.3 MILLION BELOW THE EXECUTIVE'S NUMBERS.  
20 WITH THE COMMITTEE'S OTHER ADJUSTMENTS TO REVENUE, THE  
21 EXPENDITURE REDUCTIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE WOULD BE \$26.2  
22 MILLION. THIS STILL ALLOWS FOR AN INCREASE OF 8.7% IN THE  
23 AGGREGATE OPERATING BUDGET. THIS IS LESS THAN THE EXECUTIVE'S  
24 PROPOSED INCREASE OF 9.6%, BUT IT IS STILL SUFFICIENT FOR MOST  
25 NEEDS. MY MOTION WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO FUND MONTGOMERY

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1 COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND MONTGOMERY COLLEGE AT THE SAME  
2 LEVELS RECOMMENDED BY THE EXECUTIVE, THAT IS FULLY FUNDING THE  
3 REQUESTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE COLLEGE'S BOARD OF  
4 TRUSTEES. THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND PARK AND PLANNING WOULD  
5 EACH RECEIVE FUNDING INCREASES OF 9.7% UNDER MY PROPOSAL. THIS  
6 IS LESS THAN THE INCREASES RECOMMENDED BY THE EXECUTIVE, 12.4%  
7 AND 12.2% RESPECTIVELY, BUT IT IS CERTAINLY LARGE ENOUGH TO  
8 MEET MANY IMPORTANT NEEDS. AT THE SAME TIME, I DO NOT WANT TO  
9 MINIMIZE THE CHALLENGE IN MAKING THESE REDUCTIONS. THESE  
10 AGENCY ALLOCATIONS ARE PRELIMINARY AT THIS POINT. AS WE WORK  
11 OUR WAY THROUGH THE BUDGET, WE MAY WANT TO ADJUST THEM. THERE  
12 IS NO EASY OR RIGHT ANSWER HERE. THIS IS A TOUGH JUDGMENT CALL.  
13 OUR JOB IS TO WEIGH IN THE BALANCE THE INTERESTS OF OUR  
14 PROPERTY TAXPAYERS AND ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS, WHO CARE DEEPLY  
15 ABOUT OUR SERVICES AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN MONTGOMERY  
16 COUNTY. I HAVE TRIED DILIGENTLY TO STRIKE THE RIGHT BALANCE AT  
17 THIS STAGE OF OUR BUDGET DELIBERATIONS. I BELIEVE MY MOTION  
18 DOES STRIKE THE RIGHT BALANCE AND I RESPECTFULLY COMMEND IT TO  
19 THE COUNCIL. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

20  
21 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** OKAY. THE MOTION HAS BEEN MADE BY MR.  
22 DENIS. MR. LEVENTHAL?

23  
24 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I HAPPILY  
25 SECOND MR. DENIS' MOTION. LET ME JUST SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT MR.

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1 DENIS. MR. DENIS HAS SERVED IN PUBLIC OFFICE LONGER THAN ANY  
2 OF US ON THIS COUNCIL, SO WHEN HE BRINGS THIS MOTION BEFORE US  
3 I THINK IT IS MORE SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE, ALTHOUGH WE ALL HAVE  
4 THIS APPRECIATION, PERHAPS MR. DENIS HAS THE GREATEST  
5 APPRECIATION OF WHAT IS THAT WE DO FOR PEOPLE IN MONTGOMERY  
6 COUNTY AND WHAT A PRIVILEGE IT IS TO SERVE IN PUBLIC OFFICE  
7 HERE IN THE COUNTY. IT TAKES, I THINK, THAT HISTORICAL  
8 PERSPECTIVE. AND PERHAPS THE FACT THAT MR. DENIS REPRESENTS  
9 ANOTHER PARTY, IS FROM ANOTHER PARTY THAN I AND YET, HE  
10 BELIEVES THAT THE MOTION THAT HE'S BRINGING FORWARD IS  
11 RESPONSIVE AND SENSITIVE TO WHERE THE PUBLIC IS AT TODAY. AND  
12 I APPRECIATE- I ALWAYS APPRECIATE MR. DENIS' HISTORICAL  
13 PERSPECTIVE, AND I APPRECIATE THAT HE RECOGNIZES THAT WE NEED  
14 TO BALANCE THE COMPETING OBJECTIVES OF HEARING THOSE TAXPAYERS  
15 WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH RISING ASSESSMENTS AND RISING TAX  
16 BILLS AND AT THE SAME TIME, HEARING THOSE TAXPAYERS WHO  
17 BENEFIT FROM OUR EXCELLENT SCHOOLS, FROM OUR SAFE  
18 NEIGHBORHOODS, FROM OUR LIBRARY SERVICES, FROM OUR PARKS, FROM  
19 THE ARTS, AND THOSE PEOPLE WHO REALLY NEED HELP WHO COME  
20 BEFORE THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, WHICH I CHAIR.  
21 SO I APPRECIATE MR. DENIS, AND I'M HAPPY TO SECOND HIS MOTION.  
22 AND I ALWAYS ENJOY WORKING WITH HIM, AND I THINK WE HAVE  
23 EXCELLENT COLLEGIALITY ON THIS COUNCIL. AND I'LL SPEAK MORE  
24 ABOUT THAT IN A MOMENT. LET ME JUST READ WHAT COUNCIL SAYS-  
25 WHAT THE CHARTER SAYS. "UNLESS APPROVED BY AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE



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1 OF SEVEN COUNCIL MEMBERS, THE COUNCIL SHOULD NOT LEVY AN AD  
2 VALOREM TAX ON REAL PROPERTY TO TO FINANCE THE BUDGETS THAT  
3 WILL PRODUCE TOTAL REVENUE THAT EXCEEDS THE TOTAL REVENUE  
4 PRODUCED BY THE TAX ON REAL PROPERTY IN THE PRECEDING FISCAL  
5 YEAR, PLUS A PERCENTAGE OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S REAL PROPERTY  
6 TAX REVENUES THAT EQUALS ANY INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE  
7 INDEX, UNLESS APPROVED BY AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF SEVEN COUNCIL  
8 MEMBERS." SO FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS, SEVEN COUNCILMEMBER HAVE  
9 REACHED AN ACCOMMODATION. SEVEN OF US, SOMETIME MORE THAN  
10 SEVEN, HAVE REACHED AN AGREEMENT. THAT DOESN'T VIOLATE THE  
11 CHARTER. THAT DOESN'T BREAK THE LAW. WE WORK COLLEGIALLY HERE  
12 IN THIS BODY. I THINK THAT THIS PARTICULAR GROUP OF NINE  
13 PEOPLE IS AMONG THE MOST COLLEGIAL THAT I'VE SEEN. I'VE BEEN  
14 WATCHING COUNTY POLITICS FOR 20 YEARS, AND I THINK THAT THIS  
15 GROUP WORKS TOGETHER VERY WELL. I THINK WE'RE ON THE HIGH END  
16 OF COUNCILS THAT I'VE OBSERVED IN TERMS OF OUR ABILITY TO WORK  
17 TOGETHER - DEMOCRATS, REPUBLICANS, LIBERALS, CONSERVATIVES,  
18 MODERATES, WHATEVER WE CONSIDER OURSELVES. I THINK WHAT WE'RE  
19 HERE FOR IS TO MEET PEOPLE'S NEEDS AND TO LOOK OUT FOR THE  
20 INTERESTS OF THIS COUNTY. AND I THINK WE'VE DONE THAT WELL,  
21 AND I THINK THE LAST FEW BUDGETS THAT WE'VE PASSED HAVE  
22 APPROPRIATELY TRIED TO MEET PEOPLE'S NEEDS. NOW, SOME PEOPLE  
23 HAVE ASKED, "WHAT WAS THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE THINKING WHEN HE  
24 SENT OVER TO US A BUDGET WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 8% OVER  
25 THE PREVIOUS YEAR?" AND PEOPLE HAVE SUGGESTED POLITICAL



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1 MOTIVATIONS. WELL, EVERYTHING WE DO IS POLITICAL. THIS IS A  
2 POLITICAL PROCESS. BUT I THINK I HAVE SOME INSIGHT INTO WHAT  
3 THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE WAS THINKING. I THINK OUR COUNTY  
4 EXECUTIVE WAS THINKING WE NEED TO INVEST IN OUR PEOPLE. WE  
5 NEED TO INVEST IN OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN AND IN THEIR TEACHERS.  
6 WE NEED TO INVEST IN HIGHER EDUCATION. WE NEED TO HAVE  
7 EXCELLENT LIBRARY SERVICE. WE NEED TO HAVE OUTSTANDING PARKS.  
8 WE NEED TO HAVE A HIGHER LEVEL OF PUBLIC SAFETY THAN WE HAVE  
9 HAD IN THE PAST. AND I THINK THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE LOOKED AT  
10 WHERE THE DIALOGUE WAS LAST NOVEMBER, WHEN 60% OF VOTERS VOTED  
11 AGAINST ROBIN FICKER'S CHARTER AMENDMENT, AND I THINK THE  
12 COUNTY EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATELY SENSED THAT THE PUBLIC SUPPORTS  
13 THE HIGH LEVEL OF SERVICE THAT IT GETS IN THIS OUTSTANDING  
14 COUNTY, THIS EXTRAORDINARILY WONDERFUL PLACE TO LIVE. AND I  
15 THINK THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE MIGHT HAVE SAID, "HEY, TOM PEREZ IS  
16 THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT. I MUST HAVE A FAIRLY PROGRESSIVE AND  
17 RESPONSIBLE COUNCIL THAT IS INTERESTED IN INVESTING IN PUBLIC  
18 SERVICE." AND SO, I THINK THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE MADE THE  
19 CALCULATION THAT WE COULD AFFORD THESE INVESTMENTS THAT HE  
20 SENT OVER. AND IT'S VERY INTERESTING TO ME TO LOOK AT HOW THE  
21 DIALOGUE HAS SHIFTED OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS. AND AS MR.  
22 DENIS POINTED OUT, THE MAJORITY OF THE M.F.P. COMMITTEE, IN  
23 DECEMBER, RECOMMENDED THAT WE WORK HARD, AND WE WILL WORK HARD,  
24 TO REDUCE PROPERTY TAXES AND TO ACHIEVE A PROPERTY TAX RATE  
25 HALFWAY BETWEEN THE CURRENT RATE AND THE CHARTER LIMIT. THAT

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1 WAS THE POSITION OF THE MAJORITY OF THE M.F.P. COMMITTEE IN  
2 DECEMBER. AND I VOTED FOR THAT, SO MY POSITION HAS BEEN  
3 CONSISTENT. I THINK IT'S CORRECT TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX  
4 RELIEF THIS YEAR. I THINK THAT'S RESPONSIVE. BUT I DON'T THINK  
5 THAT IF WE-- I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT, IF WE ADOPT A SEVEN-VOTE  
6 BUDGET THAT INVESTS IN PUBLIC SERVICE AND THAT MAINTAINS A  
7 HIGH QUALITY OF SERVICE AND A HIGH LEVEL OF SERVICE, I KNOW  
8 THAT WE ARE NOT VIOLATING THE CHARTER, AND I KNOW THAT WE ARE  
9 NOT BREAKING THE LAW. THE CHARTER ALLOWS US TO DO IT, AND I  
10 SUSPECT THAT THAT'S WHERE WE ARE GOING TO END UP. NOW, WE'RE  
11 GOING TO MAKE CUTS AS WELL. WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SPENDING CUTS,  
12 AND THEY'RE GOING TO BE VERY DIFFICULT. SO, THE DIALOGUE HAS  
13 SHIFTED. WE'RE GOING TO CUT BELOW THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S  
14 BUDGET. WE'RE NOT GOING TO PROVIDE EVERYTHING THAT HE  
15 SUGGESTED THAT WE OUGHT TO PROVIDE. WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SOME  
16 CUTS IN COLLECTIONS AND MATERIALS AT THE LIBRARIES. I WISH WE  
17 DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT, BUT I SUSPECT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO  
18 DO IT. DEPARTMENT HEADS ARE PROPOSING NEW INITIATIVES THAT I  
19 THINK WOULD BE POPULAR IF THE PUBLIC UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS  
20 WHY CHIEF MANGER WANTS TO ADD MORE POLICE OFFICERS, IF THE  
21 PUBLIC UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS WHY DIRECTOR COLVIN WANTS TO  
22 IMPROVE CUSTOMER SERVICE AND SERVICE INTEGRATION IN THE HEALTH  
23 AND HUMAN SERVICE ADMINISTRATION. I THINK THE PUBLIC WOULD SAY,  
24 "THOSE ARE GOOD THINGS. I HOPE WE CAN AFFORD THEM." BUT I  
25 THINK WE CAN'T AFFORD THEM, AND I SUSPECT WE WON'T DO THEM. I

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1 SUSPECT WE'RE GOING TO CUT \$12 MILLION OUT OF OUR SCHOOLS  
2 BUDGET BECAUSE OUR OUR GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE DIDN'T  
3 ULTIMATELY END UP GIVING US THE GEOGRAPHIC COST OF EDUCATION  
4 COST INDEX. AND SO, WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE PROVIDE  
5 EVERYTHING THE SCHOOL BOARD ASKED US FOR. WE'RE GOING TO MAKE  
6 SOME DIFFICULT DECISIONS, AND PEOPLE IN THIS COMMUNITY WHO  
7 EXPECT A HIGH LEVEL OF SERVICE ARE GOING TO FIND THAT THERE  
8 ARE A HIGH LEVEL OF CUTS THAT WE ARE GOING TO MAKE TO REACH  
9 \$43 MILLION BELOW THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET, WHICH IS WHAT  
10 WILL BE REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE MR. DENIS' MOTION, WHICH IS THE  
11 POSITION THAT I SUPPORT. FORTY-THREE MILLION DOLLARS IN CUTS  
12 TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET. AND I'VE BEEN WILLING TO  
13 MAKE CUTS OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. I VOTED FOR REDUCING  
14 LIBRARY HOURS, WHICH IS NEVER POPULAR AND WHICH I REGRETTED  
15 HAVING TO DO, AND WE REPORTED THAT OUT OF MY COMMITTEE. AND  
16 COUNCILMEMBERS WHO ARE, TODAY, CALLING FOR US TO REACH THE  
17 CHARTER LIMIT REVERSED THAT DECISION BY THE HEALTH AND HUMAN  
18 SERVICES COMMITTEE IN PRIOR YEARS AND ADDED BACK THOSE LIBRARY  
19 HOURS. SO I'VE BEEN WILLING TO MAKE SOME PAINFUL CUTS. AND  
20 THOSE COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO TODAY ARE CALLING FOR \$62 MILLION  
21 BELOW THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET, IN THE PAST HAVE REVERSED  
22 CUTS THAT MY COMMITTEE APPROVED. AND I JUST WANT TO SAY TO MY  
23 GOOD FRIENDS WHO ARE CALLING FOR \$62 MILLION IN CUTS, AS  
24 OPPOSED TO \$43 MILLION IN CUTS AS MR. DENIS PROPOSES, YOU  
25 CANNOT TELL EVERY GROUP THAT COMES TO US ASKING FOR MONEY THAT

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1 YOU SUPPORT THEIR REQUEST AND THEN HOLD OUT FOR THE CHARTER  
2 LIMIT. WE CANNOT SAY YES TO EVERY SINGLE GROUP THAT COMES  
3 BEFORE US, AND THEN ALSO CUT \$62 MILLION FROM THE COUNT  
4 EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET. THAT WILL NOT HAPPEN, IN FACT. SO WHETHER  
5 WE CUT \$43 MILLION OR WHETHER WE CUT \$62 MILLION, THE  
6 COMMUNITY NEEDS TO BE ON NOTICE. THERE ARE POPULAR PROGRAMS.  
7 THERE ARE NEW INITIATIVES. THERE ARE THINGS WE WOULD LIKE TO  
8 SEE FUNDED THAT ARE NOT GOING TO BE FUNDED. AND THAT'S GOING  
9 TO AFFECT THE SCHOOLS, AND THAT'S GOING TO AFFECT THE POLICE,  
10 AND THAT'S GOING TO AFFECT THE LIBRARIES. THAT'S GOING TO  
11 AFFECT THE PROGRAMS THAT ARE MOST POPULAR. NOW, THE GOOD NEWS  
12 IS THIS IS STILL GOING TO BE A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE. WE'RE STILL  
13 GOING TO HAVE GOOD GOVERNMENT. WE'RE STILL GOING TO HAVE GOOD  
14 MANAGEMENT. WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS BUDGET. WE WE WILL HAVE  
15 THE SERVICE IN THE REGION, AND THAT IS ONE OF THE REASONS  
16 PROPERTY VALUES ARE SO HIGH. THIS IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE.  
17 AND WE HAVE GOOD GOVERNMENT, AND WE HAVE GOOD MANAGEMENT, AND  
18 PEOPLE BENEFIT FROM THAT AND THEIR NET WORTH INCREASES BECAUSE  
19 OF THAT. I INTRODUCED A PROPOSAL EARLIER THIS MORNING THAT  
20 WOULD ENABLE THOSE WHO DO NOT FEEL THAT THEY BENEFIT FROM  
21 RISING ASSESSMENTS TO KEEP THEIR PROPERTY TAXES CONSTANT TO  
22 MANAGE THEIR HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES AND DEFER PAYMENT OF TAX UNTIL  
23 LATER. I THINK THERE ARE WAYS THAT WE CAN BE RESPONSIVE. I'M  
24 INTERESTED IN THE PROPOSALS BY MR. SILVERMAN AND MR. PEREZ  
25 THAT WOULD TARGET TAX RELIEF TO LOWER INCOME HOME OWNERS. I

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1 THINK WE CAN RESPOND TO THE PAIN THAT SOME HOMEOWNERS ARE  
2 FEELING. BUT I ALSO, AS MOST OF US WERE, WAS AN ACTIVE  
3 PARTICIPANT IN LAST NOVEMBER'S CAMPAIGN, AND I KNOW THAT 60%  
4 OF VOTERS-- IN A GENERAL ELECTION NOW, DEMOCRATS AND  
5 REPUBLICANS, 60% OF THEM VOTED NOT TO IMPOSE A MANDATORY  
6 CHARTER LIMIT. SO WE DON'T HAVE MANDATORY CHARTER LIMIT TODAY.  
7 THE PUBLIC HAS VOTED AGAINST THAT REPEATEDLY. LAST NOVEMBER,  
8 BY THE HIGHEST MARGIN ON RECORD. SO THE BOTTOM LINE FOR ME IS  
9 THAT I WILL VOTE FOR A BUDGET THAT MEETS PEOPLE'S NEEDS. I  
10 WILL VOTE FOR A BUDGET THAT MEETS PEOPLE'S NEEDS FOR AN  
11 OUTSTANDING SCHOOL SYSTEM. I WILL VOTE FOR A BUDGET THAT MEETS  
12 PEOPLE'S NEEDS FOR SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS. I WILL VOTE FOR A  
13 BUDGET THAT MEETS PEOPLE'S NEEDS FOR EXCELLENT PARKS, AND  
14 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND THE ARTS. AND I WILL SUPPORT OUR  
15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT, MR. PEREZ, WHO HAS GIVEN US DIRECTIVES THAT  
16 WOULD GET US TO A \$43 MILLION SPENDING REDUCTION TARGET. AND I  
17 WILL TRY NOT TO UNDULY POLITICIZE THIS PROCESS AT THE EXPENSE  
18 OF MY COLLEAGUES BECAUSE I THINK, AT THE END OF THE DAY, SEVEN  
19 OF US AT LEAST, I HOPE NINE, ARE GOING TO GET TOGETHER AND  
20 ONCE AGAIN REAFFIRM OUR SUPPORT FOR THE HIGH LEVEL OF SERVICE  
21 THAT WE PROVIDE AND PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TO HOME OWNERS  
22 WHO DESERVE IT. WE'RE VERY FORTUNATE TO SERVE IN THIS  
23 GOVERNMENT. PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE HERE BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT  
24 THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE GOOD SCHOOLS, THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE GOOD  
25 SERVICES, THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS. WE CAN



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1 MAINTAIN THAT, AND I BELIEVE THAT WE WILL. AND I HOPE ALL OF  
2 US ON THIS COUNCIL WILL GET TOGETHER AND FEEL PRIDE IN THE  
3 SERVICE THAT OUR EMPLOYEES ARE PROVIDING TO THE PUBLIC EVERY  
4 SINGLE DAY.

5

6 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** MR. SILVERMAN?

7

8 **COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN:** THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. A FEW BRIEF  
9 COMMENTS. WE NEED TO CUT THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET. IT'S  
10 JUST TOO HIGH. WE NEED TO PROVIDE MORE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TO  
11 THE RESIDENTS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY. AND I HOPE WHAT THIS  
12 COUNCIL WILL END UP DOING IS MAKING CERTAIN THAT A SIGNIFICANT  
13 PORTION OF THAT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF IS TARGETED TOWARD THOSE  
14 WHO CAN LEAST AFFORD THE INCREASING PROPERTY TAX BILLS THAT  
15 THEY RECEIVE RECEIVE. BUT, AS MY FRIEND THE COUNTY COUNCIL  
16 PRESIDENT HAS A CHART, I HAVE A CHART, TOO. AND I ASKED FOR  
17 THIS A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE  
18 PROPERTY TAX ISSUE AND THE BUDGET AS A WHOLE. I THINK WAS IT  
19 WAS LAST WEEK. AND HERE IS AN INTERESTING FACT. IN TERMS OF  
20 THE FAIRNESS BY WHICH WE GET REVENUES FROM MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
21 RESIDENTS, WHICH I THINK IS A VERY GOOD MEASURE OF WHAT THIS  
22 AND PREVIOUS COUNCILS HAVE DONE WITH ALL OF OUR FOCUS ON THE  
23 PROPERTY TAX. IN 1992, THE PROPERTY TAX AMOUNTED TO 42.9% OF  
24 TOTAL COUNTY REVENUES. THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET NOW  
25 INDICATES THAT PROPERTY TAXES WOULD BE 32.6% OF TOTAL COUNTY



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1 REVENUES. WHAT ACCOUNTS FOR THAT? WHAT ACCOUNTS FOR THAT IS  
2 HIGHER MONIES COMING IN THROUGH THE INCOME TAX, HIGHER MONIES  
3 THROUGH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AID, AND HIGHER REVENUES COMING IN  
4 THROUGH OTHER TAXES LIKE THE ENERGY TAX. THIS COUNTY HAS MADE  
5 TREMENDOUS PROGRESS IN THE LAST DECADE IN TERMS OF A FAIR TAX  
6 SYSTEM, SO TO SUGGEST THAT THE DEBATE AND DISCUSSION SHOULD BE  
7 ABOUT PROPERTY TAXES AND PROPERTY TAXES ONLY, I THINK, MISSES  
8 THE BROADER DISCUSSION ABOUT HOW WE ARE IN FACT GETTING  
9 REVENUES IN THIS COUNTY. BUT LET'S TALK ABOUT A BUZZ WORD THAT  
10 KEEPS GETTING USED: FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY. WELL, I'M REMINDED  
11 OF THE COMMERCIAL IN THE EARLY '80S, THE WENDY'S COMMERCIAL,  
12 "WHERE'S THE BEEF?" MY QUESTION IS A VERY SIMPLE ONE. WHERE IS  
13 YOUR PLAN? IF PEOPLE WANT TO CUT PROPERTY TAXES DOWN TO THE  
14 CHARTER LIMIT, WHERE'S YOUR PLAN? DO YOU WANT HIGHER OTHER  
15 TAXES? ARE YOU PREPARED TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF INCREASING THE  
16 ENERGY TAX? WE CAN'T INCREASE THE INCOME TAX. THAT'S ALREADY  
17 MAXED OUT. HOW ABOUT THE OTHER FEES, AS PEOPLE HAVE TALKED  
18 ABOUT? WELL, WE'VE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH A FEW COMMITTEE WORK  
19 SESSIONS. AND FEES, BY DEFINITION, HAVE TO BEAR SOME  
20 RELATIONSHIP TO THE PARTY THAT'S PAYING IT. SO ARE PEOPLE  
21 GOING TO SUGGEST THAT WE SHOULD START TO INSTITUTE NEW FEES? I  
22 HAVEN'T HEARD THOSE PROPOSALS, EITHER. HOW ABOUT TAKING MONEY  
23 FROM OUR RESERVES? I'VE HEARD THAT PROPOSAL FLOATED. IS THAT A  
24 ONE TIME DEAL, AS IT WAS A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO WHEN WE NEEDED

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1 SOME REAL FISCAL CHALLENGES AND NEEDED TO DO A ONE TIME  
2 CHANGE?

3

4 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** I'M IN HEART FAILURE.

5

6 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** I JUST HAD A PANIC ATTACK.

7

8 **COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN:** IS THAT PART OF THE PLAN? I'VE HEARD  
9 THAT. I'VE ALSO HEARD ABOUT CUTS. WELL, IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT  
10 CUTS, WHERE ARE THE CUTS GOING TO COME FROM? AFFORDABLE  
11 HOUSING? CHILDCARE? SCHOOLS? CLASS SIZE REDUCTION? ACCESS TO  
12 HEALTH CARE? MORE COPS, PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS? WE HAVE  
13 A LOT OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IN THIS COUNTY. YES, IT'S A  
14 VERY BIG BUDGET, BUT I HAVE A VERY BASIC MEASURE BY WHICH I  
15 VIEW FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY. IF YOU'RE GOING TO TALK THE TALK,  
16 WALK THE WALK. SO, I AM GOING TO BE INTERESTED IN HEARING FROM  
17 MY COLLEAGUES, AS WE GO THROUGH OUR COMMITTEE WORK SESSIONS,  
18 WHAT THEIR PLANS ACTUALLY ARE TO GET US DOWN TO THE CHARTER  
19 LIMIT. AND I'LL BE INTERESTED IN OUR COMMITTEES, AS WE WORK  
20 THROUGH THE BUDGET, ON WHERE THE CUTS ARE THAT THEY WOULD  
21 PROPOSE. BECAUSE THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS IT'S REAL EASY TO  
22 SIT HERE AND MAKE A BROAD POLICY STATEMENT THAT WE WANT TO GET  
23 DOWN TO THE CHARTER LIMIT. IT'S A LOT HARDER TO ACTUALLY GET  
24 THERE. AND SO, I LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. MY BOTTOM

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1 LINE, IF YOU WANT TO SUPPORT THE CHARTER LIMIT ON PROPERTY  
2 TAXES, IS WHERE'S YOUR PLAN?

3

4 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** MS. FLOREEN?

5

6 **COUNCILMEMBER FLOREEN:** THANK YOU. YOU KNOW, WE ALL HERE WOULD  
7 LIKE TO FUND EVERYTHING. WE ALL WANT TO FUND EXCELLENT SCHOOLS,  
8 AND WE ARE AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO THAT. WE ALL WANT TO  
9 FUND EXCELLENT SERVICES, WHICH WE ARE, AND WE'LL CONTINUE TO  
10 DO THAT. THE REAL QUESTION, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED IS-- AND  
11 IT'S A PHILOSOPHICAL ONE. WHERE IS THE TIPPING POINT? SINCE  
12 I'VE BEEN HERE, WE'VE HIT EVERYBODY TO FIND RESOURCES TO MAKE  
13 GOOD THINGS HAPPEN. WE HIT EVERYONE, PRETTY MUCH, WITH THE  
14 ENERGY TAX, WHICH I THINK HAS QUADRUPLD OVER TIME. WE HIT  
15 EVERYONE WHO USES A CELL PHONE WITH A TAX. WE'VE INCREASED THE  
16 INCOME TAX, AND NOW WE'RE LOOKING AT THE PROPERTY TAX ISSUE.  
17 AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTION OF THIS GROUP  
18 IS TO TAKE A HARD, COLD LOOK AT THE BUDGET EVERY YEAR, AND I  
19 THINK THIS IS A YEAR TO DO IT. IT'S NOT, AS FAR AS I'M  
20 CONCERNED, A QUESTION OF REDUCING SERVICES. THE REAL QUESTION  
21 IS CAN'T WE GET BY ON AN ADDITIONAL PLUS OR MINUS \$176 MILLION  
22 OVER LAST YEAR? THAT IS NOT CHUMP CHANGE. THAT'S A LOT OF  
23 MONEY, AND THAT'S WHAT THE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL IS. CAN'T WE GET  
24 BY AS A COUNTY ON \$176.6 MILLION DOLLARS IN ADDITION TO WHAT  
25 WE SPENT LAST YEAR? JUST THINK ABOUT THAT. THAT'S A LOT OF

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1 MONEY. CAN'T WE USE THAT MONEY TO PROVIDE SERVICES, MOST  
2 IMPORTANTLY TO PAY OUR HARD-WORKING EMPLOYEES, MOST  
3 IMPORTANTLY TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF OUR MOST VULNERABLE AND TO  
4 FUND EXTRAORDINARY SCHOOL SERVICES? I THINK WE CAN, BUT THE  
5 QUESTION IS HOW MUCH ARE WE GOING TO ADD ON? THAT'S WHAT THIS  
6 DEBATE IS ALL ABOUT. IN FISCAL YEAR '03, THIS COUNCIL EXCEEDED  
7 THE CHARTER LIMIT BY \$4.3 MILLION. IN '04, IT WENT UP TO \$29.2,  
8 '05, \$37.3. THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET PROPOSES THAT WE  
9 EXCEED IT BY \$62.5 MILLION. MR. DENIS PROPOSAL IS A BIG  
10 IMPROVEMENT. I'LL CERTAIN GIVE HIM THAT. IT ASKS US TO EXCEED  
11 IT BY \$26.2 MILLION. THE QUESTION IS, CAN'T WE GET BY ON \$176  
12 MILLION EXTRA OVER LAST YEAR? THAT'S THE OVERALL BUDGET. WE  
13 HAVE PUSHED EVERY BUTTON AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED. I AM NOT  
14 SURE THAT OUR RESIDENTS ARE SEEING 8% OR 9% INCREASES IN THEIR  
15 INCOME. WHAT WE'RE DOING IS ASKING THEM TO PAY MORE, NO MATTER  
16 WHAT WE DO WITH THIS BUDGET. THE QUESTION IS, HOW MUCH MORE?  
17 YOU HAVE A LIMIT BECAUSE, OCCASIONALLY, YOU TRY TO LIVE BY IT.  
18 NOW, I CAN'T SWEAR THAT AT THE END OF THE DAY, WHEN WE GET TO  
19 THE END OF MAY, I WOULDN'T VOTE TO EXCEED IT FOR SOME  
20 EXTRAORDINARY REASON, BUT IF WE DON'T REALLY MEAN THAT WE'RE  
21 GOING TO TRY VERY HARD, WE'RE NOT. THAT'S WHY THIS LIMIT IS IN  
22 THE CHARTER, AND THAT'S WHAT HAS FORCED US TO LOOK VERY HARD  
23 SO FAR AS THIS BUDGET. I THINK THAT WE CAN KEEP DOING IT, AND  
24 I THINK THAT WE CAN GET DARN CLOSE, IF NOT AT, THE CHARTER  
25 LIMIT. AND I THINK WE'RE TRYING IN COMMITTEE AND I THINK THAT

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1 WE CAN GET THERE, BUT WE ALL HAVE TO AGREE THAT THAT IS A  
2 PRIORITY, OF LIVING ON AN ADDITIONAL \$176 MILLION. THAT'S  
3 GOING TO GENERATE GOOD SERVICES, GOOD SCHOOLS AND GOOD SUPPORT  
4 FOR OUR COMMUNITY. SO, I SUPPORT THE M.F.P. RECOMMENDATION.

5

6 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** MR. PRESIDENT, MAY I MAKE A COUPLE OF  
7 COMMENTS, CLARIFICATION?

8

9 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** I WAS GOING TO LET MR. KNAPP GO, THEN  
10 I'LL TURN TO YOU.

11

12 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** GO AHEAD.

13

14 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** MR. KNAPP WANTED TO STAND AND WALK AROUND  
15 DURING HIS COMMENTS.

16

17 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** THERE IS SUCH A PILE OF PAPER THERE. I  
18 COULDN'T SEE IF HIS LIGHT WAS ON.

19

20 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** WE HAVE MIKED HIM UP. THIS IS WHAT HE  
21 CALLS HIS OPEN MIC.

22

23 **COUNCILMEMBER KNAPP:** THAT'S RIGHT. I'M PRACTICING TO BE AN  
24 ATTORNEY, WALKING AROUND FOR THE OPENING AND CLOSING REMARKS.  
25 I'M NOT ONE, BUT I'M TRYING TO BE ONE BY HANGING OUT WITH YOU

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1 GUYS. THIS HAS BEEN AN INTERESTING DISCUSSION. IF I WERE  
2 SITTING OUT THERE IN TV LAND WATCHING, I'M NOT SURE WHAT I  
3 WOULD KNOW AS A RESULT OF IT. I THINK IT'S-- I THINK ALL OF MY  
4 COLLEAGUES MAKE GOOD AND WELL THOUGHT-OUT POINTS. BUT IT'S  
5 ACTUALLY PRETTY SIMPLE, I THINK, AS I'VE GONE INTO LOOK AT IT.  
6 THE CHARTER LIMIT HAS BEEN PUT IN PLACE TO GIVE US A GUIDANCE.  
7 AS THE BODY THAT HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTUALLY, AT THE  
8 END OF THE DAY, FOR SIGNING THE CHECK FOR THE GOVERNMENT,  
9 THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE ELECT US TO DO, IS IT GIVES US THE GUIDANCE  
10 OF WHERE WE BEGIN THAT DISCUSSION. THIS YEAR, AT LEAST  
11 ACCORDING TO WHAT THE M.F.P. COMMITTEE APPROVED, OUR STARTING  
12 POINT IS ROUGHLY \$209 MILLION ABOVE WHAT WE'RE SPENDING  
13 CURRENTLY. NOW, YOU'VE HEARD LOTS OF PEOPLE TALK ABOUT CUTS.  
14 WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT CUTS YET. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT  
15 INCREASING OUR SPENDING BY OVER \$200 MILLION AS A STARTING  
16 POINT FOR OUR DISCUSSION. WE NEED TO START THE PROCESS THERE.  
17 THAT'S WHAT THE CHARTER SAYS. IT DOESN'T MEAN WE END UP THERE.  
18 IT DOESN'T MEAN WE STAY THERE BY THE TIME WE'RE ALL DONE, BUT  
19 IT MEANS WE START THERE. IF WE NEED TO EXCEED IT, THEN WE MAKE  
20 A COMPELLING REASON AND WE ARGUE TO PEOPLE WHY WE NEED TO  
21 EXCEED THAT LIMIT, AND WE MAKE THE CASE. I BELIEVE THAT MR.  
22 PEREZ HAS LAID OUT A GOOD CHARGE TO US. WE NEED TO HAVE A  
23 MORAL BUDGET. AND IN ORDER TO HAVE A MORAL BUDGET, IT MEANS WE  
24 NEED TO TAKE CARE OF THE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY. AND IT MEANS  
25 THAT WE NEED TO TAKE CARE OF THE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY FOR



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1 NOT THIS YEAR BUT NEXT YEAR, AND CREATE A MECHANISM THAT  
2 ALLOWS FOR US TO DO THAT GOING FORWARD. AND SO, IT REALLY  
3 TALKS TO THE ELEMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY. AND THE FACT THAT THE  
4 INITIATIVE THAT WAS ON THE BALLOT LAST FALL DID NOT PASS  
5 DOESN'T MEAN IT'S NOT IMPORTANT TO PEOPLE. IT MEANS THAT THEY  
6 THINK THAT THEY'VE ELECTED NINE FOLKS UP HERE THAT HAVE THE  
7 DISCIPLINE AND THE DISCRETION TO BE ABLE TO EITHER STAY WITHIN  
8 THAT LIMIT OR MAKE A COMPELLING ARGUMENT AS TO WHY THEY NEED  
9 TO EXCEED IT. FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO COME OVER WITH A  
10 BUDGET THAT EXCEED IT BY \$62 MILLION, THAT'S FINE. WE CAN SAY  
11 WE'RE GOING TO CUT, BUT NONE OF THOSE PROGRAMS-- AND THIS IS  
12 ONE OF THE QUESTIONS THAT I ASKED LAST WEEK. ALL OF THOSE ARE  
13 NEW INITIATIVES. AND WE HAVE GOTTEN RID OF NOTHING IN OUR  
14 CURRENT BASE BUDGET TO MAKE ROOM FOR THOSE NEW INITIATIVES. SO,  
15 WE'RE NOT CUTTING ANYTHING FROM THE EXISTING BUDGET AND NOW  
16 WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, "DO WE WANT TO FUND THOSE NEW  
17 INITIATIVES?" THAT'S A VERY FAIR DISCUSSION, AND ONE WE SHOULD  
18 HAVE. WE SHOULD LOOK AT THOSE INITIATIVES IN EACH OF OUR  
19 COMMITTEES AND SEE WHICH ONES OF THOSE WE THINK WE WANT TO ADD.  
20 IF WE THINK IT'S IMPORTANT AND WANT TO TRY TO MAKE ROOM WITHIN  
21 THE EXISTING BUDGET, THEN PERHAPS WE WANT TO SHIFT OUR  
22 PRIORITIES WITHIN THAT BUDGET, WITHIN THOSE COMMITTEES, OR  
23 WITHIN THOSE DEPARTMENTS, AND DO ONE OF THE PROPOSALS RELATIVE  
24 TO SOMETHING ELSE. THAT'S FAIR. OR, WE MAY RECOGNIZE THAT WHAT  
25 THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE HAS PROPOSED, OR WHAT ONE OF OUR

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1 COLLEAGUES HERE HAS PROPOSED, IS SO SIGNIFICANT THAT IT  
2 WARRANTS EXCEEDING THE CHARTER LIMIT IN ORDER TO PAY FOR THAT.  
3 GREAT, LET'S MAKE THAT CASE. I THINK THAT'S WHAT THE CHARTER  
4 LIMIT IS THERE FOR US TO DO, IS TO EXPLAIN CLEARLY TO PEOPLE  
5 WHERE IT IS WE HOPE TO GET TO. BUT THE NOTION, THE BURDEN OF  
6 PROOF, IS ON US. AND SO MY FEAR IS THAT IF WE ESTABLISH-- IF  
7 WE PASS A SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINE TODAY THAT'S  
8 ALREADY IN EXCESS OF THE CHARTER LIMIT, WE'VE ALREADY EXCEEDED  
9 IT WITHOUT EVER MAKING OUR CASE IN THE FIRST PLACE. SO I THINK,  
10 AS THE PEOPLE WHO, AT THE END OF THE DAY, ARE RESPONSIBLE, WE  
11 OWE IT TO OURSELVES AS WELL AS THE PEOPLE TO MAKE SURE THAT WE  
12 FULLY VET ALL OF THOSE ISSUES. NOW, I DON'T THINK THAT'S  
13 POLITICIZING A PROCESS. QUITE HONESTLY, I THINK IT IS MAKING A  
14 PROCESS MUCH MORE TRANSPARENT. I APPRECIATE THE EFFORT OF  
15 O.M.B. TO TRY AND CLARIFY THE PERFORMANCE MEASURES THAT WE'VE  
16 PUT IN PLACE, TO TRY AND DETERMINE HOW WHAT WE'RE SPENDING IS  
17 BEING MEASURED. I THINK THERE'S A LOT OF WORK THAT STILL NEEDS  
18 TO BE DONE THERE, JUDGING FROM THE FIRST COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
19 WE'VE HAD. A NUMBER OF THE KEY CRITERIA THAT OUR PUBLIC SAFETY  
20 OFFICIALS USE TO DETERMINE INTERNALLY HOW THEY ARE MAKING  
21 DECISIONS AREN'T THE SAME TYPE OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES THAT WE  
22 ACTUALLY HAVE IN THE DOCUMENT THAT WE'RE MAKING PUBLICLY  
23 AVAILABLE. AND I'M NOT SURE WHY THAT WOULD BE THE CASE, BUT I  
24 THINK WE CAN WORK TO GET THERE. AND THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT  
25 WE DO BECAUSE, AT THE END OF THE DAY, THAT'S GOING TO BE THE

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1 MECHANISM THAT WE USE TO JUSTIFY TO PEOPLE HOW IT IS THAT  
2 WE'RE DOING THINGS, HOW WE'RE SPENDING THEIR MONEY, AND WHY WE  
3 ARE SPENDING THE MONEY. I THINK YOU WOULD TAKE AWAY FROM SOME  
4 OF THE COMMENTS THAT MY COLLEAGUES HAVE MADE, THAT IF WE WERE  
5 TO START AT THE CHARTER LIMIT WE WOULD BE, THAT WE WOULD  
6 SOMEHOW BE CUTTING OUR SCHOOLS, CUTTING OUR PUBLIC SAFETY  
7 RESOURCES, AND CUTTING A VARIETY OF OTHER THINGS. THE REALTY  
8 OF IT IS, IS THAT WOULD NOT BE THE CASE. YOU CAN FUND OUR  
9 PUBLIC SCHOOLS. YOU CAN FUND MONTGOMERY COLLEGE. YOU CAN EVEN  
10 FUND SOME OF THE ELEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN PROPOSED BY THE  
11 COUNTY EXECUTIVE IN THE AREA OF PUBLIC SAFETY, AS WELL AS SOME  
12 OF THE OTHER INITIATIVES, AND STILL STAY WITHIN THE CHARTER  
13 LIMIT. I THINK THAT'S AN IMPORTANT POINT FOR PEOPLE TO  
14 RECOGNIZE. IT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE  
15 SOME CHOICES AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO ESTABLISH SOME  
16 PRIORITIES. AND WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO FUND ALL OF COUNTY  
17 GOVERNMENT AT THE 12% RATE THAT THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE HAS  
18 PROPOSED. BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE GOING TO HURT OUR SCHOOLS,  
19 HURT OUR STUDENTS, OR HURT OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS  
20 NECESSARILY, TO DO THAT. AND I THINK THAT'S A VERY IMPORTANT  
21 POINT TO GET OUT THERE FOR PEOPLE, BECAUSE YOU WOULD TAKE AWAY  
22 FROM THESE CUTS THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, THAT REALLY AREN'T  
23 CUTS, THAT THAT'S WHO IS GOING TO GET HURT. AND I DON'T  
24 BELIEVE THAT THAT'S THE CASE AT ALL. AS FAR AS THE PLAN, THE  
25 PLAN IS WE START AT THE CHARTER LIMIT. WE REVIEW THE PROPOSALS

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1 THAT THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE HAS MADE. WE LOOK AT THOSE ON THEIR  
2 MERITS, WE DETERMINE WHERE OR NOT WE AS THE COUNCIL WANT TO  
3 FUND THOSE PLANS. WE DON'T GO THROUGH AND TRY TO PICK  
4 ARBITRARILY WHICH THINGS WE DON'T WANT TO FUND. WE KNOW WHAT'S  
5 IN OUR BUDGET. DO WE CHOOSE TO FUND THOSE THINGS THAT ARE  
6 STILL IN OUR BUDGET AT THAT CURRENT RATE? IF SO, FINE. WE MAKE  
7 THAT DECISION. WE THEN REVIEW EACH OF THE OTHER ELEMENTS THAT  
8 THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE HAS PROPOSED AND WE DETERMINE WHICH, IF  
9 ANY, OF THOSE WE WANT TO FUND. AND THEN WE MAKE THE ARGUMENT  
10 TO THE PEOPLE THAT THAT'S WHAT WE WANT TO DO. IF IT EXCEEDS  
11 THE CHARTER LIMIT, THEN WE PUT THAT IN FRONT OF THEM AND WE  
12 MAKE THAT VERY CLEAR. BUT IT'S NOT A MATTER OF TRYING TO  
13 ARBITRARILY PICK WHICH THINGS THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE HAS  
14 PROPOSED THAT WE DON'T WANT TO FUND. LET'S LOOK AT THEM ALL ON  
15 THEIR MERITS AND MAKE THE CASE. I THINK WE REALLY TRY TO MAKE  
16 THINGS MORE DIFFICULT THAN THEY NEED TO BE. I TRY TO BE A  
17 PRETTY SIMPLE PERSON AND I'VE FOUND THAT, WHEN YOU REALLY SIT  
18 DOWN AND BOIL THROUGH ALL OF THIS STUFF AND LOOK AT ALL OF THE  
19 PERCENTAGES, IT REALLY COMES DOWN TO BASIC THINGS. WE'VE GOT A  
20 CERTAIN AMOUNT OF REVENUE. WE HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF THINGS  
21 WE'D LIKE TO TRY AND DO. WE'VE HEARD A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF  
22 TESTIMONY FROM GREAT FOLKS WITH GREAT IDEAS AND THINGS THAT  
23 WE'D LOVE TO BE ABLE TO FUND. THE REALTY IS YOU CAN'T GET  
24 THERE. AS AN INDIVIDUAL, AS A BUSINESS PERSON, I SEE ALL OF  
25 THOSE THOSE THINGS IN MY OTHER LIFE. I'D LOVE TO GO LOTS OF

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1 PLACES. I'D LOVE DO LOTS OF THINGS. YOU'RE CONSTRAINED. THE  
2 CHARTER LIMIT PROVIDES SOME CONSTRAINT FOR US. IF WE CHOOSE TO  
3 SPEND PEOPLE'S MONEY BEYOND THAT CHARTER LIMIT, THE BURDEN OF  
4 PROOF IS ON US TO MAKE SURE THAT WE'VE ARTICULATED TO THEM WHY.  
5 AND SO THE CHARTER LIMIT BECOMES OUR STARTING POINT, AND I  
6 THINK THAT THAT'S WHERE WE HAVE TO BEGIN OUR DISCUSSION THIS  
7 YEAR, AND THEN LOOK AT EACH OF THE PROGRAMS. AND I THINK THAT  
8 THAT IS VERY SIMPLE. IT'S VERY STRAIGHTFORWARD, AND FOR THAT  
9 REASON I WILL ENDORSE THE M.F.P. COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION.

10

11 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** MS.PRAISNER?

12

13 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** THANK YOU. I AM GOING TO TRY VERY HARD  
14 NOT TO DO ANYTHING BEYOND ADD SOME ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO  
15 AMPLIFY EITHER WHAT I THINK IS THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS,  
16 AND ALSO TO RESPOND TO SOME OF THE COMMENTS TO JUST PUT IT  
17 INTO CONTEXT. SOME OF WHAT I INTENDED TO SAY MR. KNAPP HAS  
18 ALREADY COMMENTED ON, AND SO I WILL NOT-- I'LL TRY NOT TO  
19 DUPLICATE THAT CONVERSATION SO THAT FOLKS CAN COMPLETE THIS  
20 DELIBERATION AND GET TO LUNCH BEFORE THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
21 THIS AFTERNOON, WHERE THE REAL WORK BEGINS. THE M.F.P.  
22 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FROM DECEMBER HAD AN ASSUMPTION THAT  
23 WE WOULD SUNSET THE ENERGY TAX INCREASE FOR A \$55 MILLION  
24 REDUCTION. THAT \$55 MILLION REDUCTION HAS NOW BECOME-- IT HAS  
25 GONE AWAY, AS FAR AS THE COMMITTEE ASSUMPTION IS CONCERNED.

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1 THE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY ASSUMES THE ENERGY TAX AT THE  
2 CURRENT LEVEL. AND THE COMMITTEE MAJORITY SUPPORTS THE  
3 COUNCIL'S ACTION OF DECEMBER, WHICH MODIFIED THE COMMITTEE'S  
4 RECOMMENDATION AS IT RELATED TO PROPERTY TAX AND WAS NOT  
5 INCONSISTENT WITH WHAT THE COMMITTEE MAJORITY SAID WAS THEIR  
6 GOAL AS WE WERE DEVELOPING THE SPENDING AFFORDABILITY INITIAL  
7 NUMBERS. BUT, LOOKING AT THE ENERGY TAX REDUCTIONS AND THE  
8 PROPERTY TAX ISSUES, THE QUESTION WAS, "HOW FAR?" GIVEN THE  
9 ENERGY TAX AT THE CURRENT RATES, FOR \$55 MILLION ASSUMPTION OF  
10 REVENUE THAT WOULD EXIST, THE PROPERTY TAX BECAME IN, I THINK,  
11 THE COMMITTEE MAJORITY'S VIEW, MR. ANDREWS CAN CORRECT ME IF  
12 I'M WRONG, WHERE THE DIFFERENCE IN THE VARIATION IS. AS MR.  
13 KNAPP INDICATED, THIS BUDGET AS PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE  
14 MAJORITY IS STILL A SIGNIFICANT REVENUE INCREASE ASSUMPTION,  
15 AND STILL A SIGNIFICANT 7.2% OVERALL APPROPRIATION.  
16 DETERMINATIONS OF WHERE THOSE FUNDS GO AMONG THE AGENCIES IS  
17 NOT PART OF THE REQUIRED STRUCTURE, BUT IS SOMETHING THAT WE  
18 WILL WORK THROUGH. I JUST WANT TO MAKE ONE COMMENT ABOUT THE  
19 VARIATION IN WHERE OUR REVENUES COME FROM AND THE PROPERTY TAX  
20 ISSUE. THE REALTY IS THAT WE MAY HAVE A DIFFERENT PERCENTAGE  
21 AND A DIFFERENT DISTRIBUTION AT THIS POINT. WE ALSO HAVE  
22 DIFFERENT VULNERABILITIES AS A RESULT OF THAT. AND WE HAVE,  
23 BACK IN THE '88 TO '89 TIME PERIOD, THE SAME KINDS OF CONCERNS  
24 AND PRESSURES THAT WERE BEING RAISED BY THE COMMUNITY RELATIVE  
25 TO THE PROPERTY TAX. I'M SYMPATHETIC TO MY COLLEAGUES'



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1 CONCERNS ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE HOUSE-RICH BUT FISCALLY POOR FROM  
2 THE STANDPOINT OF THE CAPACITY TO MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS. BUT  
3 I ALSO WOULD SAY THAT, AS I HAVE GONE AROUND THE COMMUNITY AND  
4 HEARD FROM FOLKS, IT IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH ONLY THOSE ON  
5 FIXED INCOMES WHO HAVE RAISED THOSE CONCERNS. THERE ARE AN  
6 AWFUL LOT OF WHAT WOULD CALL MIDDLE CLASS, YOUNGER AND MIDDLE-  
7 AGED FOLKS, WHO ARE RAISING CONCERNS ABOUT THE CAPACITY TO  
8 MEET ALL OF THEIR FISCAL OBLIGATIONS WHEN IT COMES TAXES. WE  
9 HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO ON PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND PRODUCTIVITY.  
10 WE HEARD SOME COMMENTS FROM O.M.B. ABOUT THE FACT THAT  
11 PRODUCTIVITY IS NOT EVEN INCLUDED. IT IS A SEPARATE CATEGORY  
12 NOW WITHIN THE FISCAL PLAN, BUT IS ASSUMED TO BE ACHIEVED BY  
13 DEPARTMENTS WHEN THEY MAKE THEIR BUDGET MODIFICATIONS AND  
14 REDUCTIONS. THAT'S NOT ADEQUATE. THAT'S NOT WHERE WE WANT TO  
15 GO AND IN FACT, WE INDICATED AS A COMMITTEE TO THE O.M.B. THAT  
16 WE'VE GOT TO GO BACK TO THE ISSUE AND REALLY STRUGGLE WITH  
17 PRODUCTIVITY QUESTIONS, AND REALLY STRUGGLE WITH ACHIEVING  
18 PRODUCTIVITY AND COME OUT WITH SOMETHING MORE MEASURABLE AND  
19 MORE DEMONSTRATIVE ACROSS THE BOARD. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS  
20 WE'RE SPENDING MORE MONEY IN THE M.F.P. COMMITTEE PROPOSAL AND  
21 WE'RE ASSUMING MORE REVENUE. THE QUESTION IS WHAT IS  
22 SUSTAINABLE AND WHERE ARE THE PRODUCTIVITY, AND WHERE ARE THE  
23 REVIEWS OF WHAT WE ARE DOING NOW? AND I THINK WE WOULD ALL  
24 ADMIT THAT WE REALLY HAVE NOT YET ACHIEVED A LEVEL OF  
25 EXAMINATION OF WHAT WE ARE DOING NOW, TO BE ABLE TO FACE THE

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1 TAXPAYERS AND SAY, "GIVE US MORE MONEY BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT  
2 WHAT WE ARE SPENDING NOW, WE ARE DOING IN THE MOST EFFICIENT  
3 AND THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY, AND THAT THE PROGRAMS THAT WE'RE  
4 SPENDING MONEY ON ARE ACHIEVING THE RESULTS THAT WE HAVE SAID  
5 THAT THEY SHOULD." WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY SHOULD, IN GOOD  
6 MEASUREMENT, AND WE CANNOT MAKE THAT STATEMENT, EITHER. AND  
7 JUST ONE FINAL COMMENT. I AGREE VERY MUCH WITH THE COMMENT  
8 THAT MR. KNAPP MADE. AND MAYBE I WOULD SAY IT A DIFFERENT WAY.  
9 I BELIEVE THE REFERENDUM IN NOVEMBER, OR WHAT I WENT TO FOLKS  
10 AND ASKED THEM TO DO, IN VOTING NO ON THAT QUESTION, WAS NOT  
11 TO SAY THAT THE ISSUE IS NOT IMPORTANT BUT TO SAY, "GIVE US,  
12 THE COUNCIL, YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS, THE ABILITY MAKE REVIEW  
13 ANNUALLY THAT ISSUE. AND DON'T TIE OUR HANDS TO BEGIN WITH."  
14 BUT WHERE YOU START AND WHERE YOU FINISH IN THE BUDGET REVIEW  
15 AND THE BUDGET ADOPTION IS A COMPACT WITH THE COMMUNITY THAT  
16 DEMONSTRATES JUSTIFICATION FOR HOW YOU'RE SPENDING THE MONEY,  
17 NOT AN OUTRIGHT ASSUMPTION THAT THE MONEY SHOULD BE SPENT.

18  
19 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** OKAY, THANK YOU. FOR THOSE KEEPING SCORE  
20 AT HOME, I WOULD JUST MAKE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS AGAIN.  
21 AND ACTUALLY, WHAT I HEARD IN THIS DISCUSSION IS A FAIR AMOUNT  
22 OF AGREEMENT ON A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ITEMS. NUMBER ONE, APRIL  
23 19TH, 2005, WHILE IT IS A CRITICALLY IMPORTANT DATE IN THE  
24 LIFE OF THE FINANCE DIRECTOR, IS NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT DATE  
25 IN THE LIFE OF THE BUDGET PROCESS. TEN OUT OF THE LAST

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1 FOURTEEN YEARS, THE FIGURE THAT WAS SET ON THAT APRIL DATE,  
2 WHATEVER YEAR IT WAS, WAS EXCEEDED IN THE MAY DELIBERATIONS.  
3 SO, TO THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO PAINT THIS DAY AS THE MOST  
4 IMPORTANT DATE IN THE COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS, I WOULD  
5 RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT THAT YOU SHOULD LOOK AT THE RECORD AND SEE  
6 THAT IT'S A PART OF OUR BUDGET PROCESS. IT IS SIMPLY NOT THE  
7 MOST IMPORTANT PART OF OUR BUDGET PROCESS. AND SO, YOU CAN  
8 EXTRAPOLATE. AND THESE WERE YEARS IN WHICH WE WERE OFTEN UNDER  
9 THE CHARTER LIMIT, IN WHICH WE NONETHELESS EXCEEDED THE FIGURE  
10 THAT WE REACHED IN THE APRIL DETERMINATION. SO THAT IS ONE, I  
11 BELIEVE, UNASSAILABLE FACT OF BUDGET-MAKING IN MONTGOMERY  
12 COUNTY. OTHER AREAS OF AGREEMENT. WE ARE HAVING A DISCUSSION  
13 ABOUT HOW MUCH- HOW MANY MANY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN SPENDING  
14 CUTS. WE'RE NOT HAVING A DISCUSSION ABOUT WHETHER THE  
15 EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET SHOULD BE CUT. WE ARE NOT HAVING A  
16 DISCUSSION ABOUT WHETHER SOME OF THE 275 POSITIONS-- WHETHER  
17 ANY OF THEM SHOULD BE CUT. THERE WILL BE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS  
18 OF THOSE POSITIONS CUT, I PREDICT. THAT IS A FACT OF LIFE. AND  
19 MR. ANDREWS HAS OUTLINED, AND MR. FARBER IN HIS BUDGET  
20 DOCUMENT LAST WEEK OUTLINED WHAT HE CALLED "THE LONG TAIL" OF  
21 MANY OF THOSE POSITIONS. AND, WHILE THEY ARE THINGS WE WOULD  
22 LIKE TO HAVE, I PREDICT THAT MANY OF THEM ARE THINGS THAT WILL  
23 NOT-- ARE POSITIONS THAT WILL NOT BE SUSTAINABLE IN OUR BUDGET  
24 DELIBERATIONS. SO, TO THE EXTENT THAT PEOPLE ARE WONDERING  
25 WHETHER THERE ARE GOING TO BE POSITIONS CUT, I WOULD

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April 19, 2005

1 RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT THAT THERE WILL ABSOLUTELY BE ADDITIONAL  
2 POSITIONS THAT ARE REQUESTED THAT WILL NOT BE FUNDED IN THIS  
3 BUDGET. LAST WEEK IN THE H.H.S. COMMITTEE, AND AGAIN OUR CHAIR  
4 HAS BEEN VERY VIGILANT IN SCRUBBING THE BUDGET, WE MADE A  
5 TOUGH CHOICE. BECAUSE, IN THE IDEAL WORLD, SERVICE INTEGRATION,  
6 WHILE A VERY INARTFUL NAME, I WOULD CALL IT SOMETHING LIKE  
7 WHATEVER WE TALKED ABOUT "INCREASING ACCESS" OR "ONE-STOP  
8 SHOPPING." IT'S A LAUDABLE GOAL, BUT I DON'T THINK THE CASE  
9 HAS BEEN MADE AT THIS JUNCTURE TO INVEST THE AMOUNT OF MONEY  
10 THAT THEY WERE SEEKING TO INVEST. SO THE QUESTION PRESENTED IS,  
11 INDEED, HOW MANY POSITIONS WILL BE CUT. THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT  
12 EXPECTATIONS GAP THAT WE ARE CONFRONTING. THE AMOUNT OF THE  
13 BUDGET GAP IS NOT AS GREAT AS PAST YEARS, BUT WOULD I  
14 RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT THAT PERHAPS THE EXPECTATIONS GAP IS AS  
15 WIDE AS IT'S BEEN, AT LEAST IN MY LIMITED EXPERIENCE ON THE  
16 COUNCIL, AND THAT IS CERTAINLY A CHALLENGE. QUESTIONS WERE  
17 RAISED ABOUT PEOPLE NOT SEEING INCREASES IN THEIR INCOME, AND  
18 THEREFORE WE NEED TO DO PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. I WOULD AGAIN  
19 REMIND MY COLLEAGUES, AND I CONTINUE TO REQUEST MARVIN, MY  
20 GOOD FRIEND, TO CHECK MY FACTS AND FIGURES, THAT PRESIDENT  
21 BUSH HAS DONE A GREAT FAVOR FOR SOME AMERICANS IN THE TAX CUTS  
22 HE HAS PUT INTO PLACE. NOW WE WANT TO MAKE THEM PERMANENT, AND  
23 NOW WE WANT TO MAKE THE ESTATE TAX REDUCTIONS PERMANENT, SO  
24 THAT THOSE 0.0001 % OF THE REALLY, REALLY, REALLY RICH PEOPLE  
25 CAN AVOID ADDITIONAL TAXES. BUT AGAIN, THE AVERAGE HOMEOWNER

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1 WHO IS MAKING BETWEEN \$70,000 AND \$100,000, AT LEAST FROM MY  
2 FIGURES, THE FEDERAL TAX CUT THAT THEY ARE GETTING FAR EXCEEDS  
3 ALL THE AGGREGATE INCREASES THAT WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO PUT IN  
4 PLACE HERE. AND AGAIN, WHY IS THAT RELEVANT TO THIS  
5 DISCUSSION? IT'S RELEVANT BECAUSE THERE IS FUNDAMENTAL  
6 STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION UNDERWAY IN AMERICA WHERE BUDGETS--  
7 WHERE RESPONSIBILITIES ARE BEING OUTSOURCED TO LOCAL  
8 GOVERNMENTS FOR SO MANY THINGS. AND WE HEARD MOST VIVIDLY FROM  
9 SCOTT MINTON ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE H.O.C. BUDGET. WE  
10 HAD A GREAT EVENT AT NEW HAMPSHIRE ESTATES TO CELEBRATE THE  
11 REMARKABLE PROGRESS THAT OUR KIDS ARE MAKING IN THE SCHOOLS.  
12 AND I WOULD RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT THAT WE CAN DO A MUCH BETTER  
13 JOB IN MEASURING RESULTS. WE HAVE TO DO THAT, BUT WE ARE DOING  
14 A GOOD JOB IN MEASURING RESULTS IN MANY AREAS. AND I THINK THE  
15 PROOF IS IN THE PUDDING, WHICH IS THAT HOUSES IN MY  
16 NEIGHBORHOOD ARE ON THE MARKET FOR 24 HOURS BECAUSE PEOPLE  
17 WANT TO MOVE TO THIS COUNTY, BECAUSE THEY WANT TO GO TO OUR  
18 SCHOOLS BECAUSE THEY ARE SOME OF THE BEST SCHOOLS IN THE  
19 UNITED STATES. AND SO, I THINK WE ARE ACHIEVING RESULTS IN  
20 MANY OF OUR PROGRAMS. DOES THAT MEAN THAT WE CAN'T DO BETTER  
21 IN TERMS OF MEASURING RESULTS? HECK, NO. I WOULD  
22 WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT THAT. BUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT NOT SEEING  
23 INCREASES IN INCOME, THAT IS A TRUE STATEMENT FOR SOME. BUT IT  
24 IS IMPORTANT TO COMPARE THE OVERALL TAX BURDEN AND TO  
25 RECOGNIZE THAT A LOT OF WHAT WE ARE DOING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT



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1 IS TO MAKE UP FOR THE LONG TRAIL OF BROKEN PROMISES IN  
2 ANNAPOLIS AND IN WASHINGTON. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT, I HAVE  
3 HEARD SOME COLLEAGUES MENTION THAT EVERYBODY CAN GET A 7.3% OR  
4 SOMETHING LIKE THAT INCREASE. AND \$176 MILLION IS A LOT OF  
5 MONEY ON A BASIC LEVEL, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT,  
6 WHEN YOU ACTUALLY STUDY THE BUDGET LINE BY LINE, IT IS NOT A  
7 7.3% INCREASE FOR EVERY BUDGET. LET ME GIVE YOU SIMPLY ONE  
8 EXAMPLE, GROUP INSURANCE FOR RETIREES. THE FY06 BUDGET IS A  
9 30.7% INCREASE IN GROUP INSURANCE FOR RETIREES. THAT IS A  
10 FIXED COST OF DOING BUSINESS THAT EXCEEDS 7.4% BY A FACTOR OF  
11 FOUR. THERE ARE OTHER ITEMS THAT ADD UP TO ABOUT \$20 MILLION  
12 THAT ARE IN A SIMILAR CATEGORY. SO WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? WHEN  
13 YOU FACTOR IN THOSE ITEMS THAT ARE COST OF DOING BUSINESS  
14 ITEMS - THE INCREASING COST OF HEALTH CARE, HYPER-INFLATION IN  
15 HEALTH CARE, YOU ARE REALLY NOT TALKING ABOUT GIVING ACROSS  
16 THE BOARD INCREASES OF 7%. YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT A SAME-  
17 SERVICES BUDGET ON A GOOD DAY. AND SO, THE QUESTION PRESENTED-  
18 - IF WE WANT TO GO DOWN TO THE CHARTER LIMIT, THE QUESTION  
19 PRESENTED IS, ARE WE COMFORTABLE WITH A SAME-SERVICES BUDGET?  
20 AND THAT IS THE REALITY OF WHAT WE WOULD HAVE TO DO TO GET  
21 DOWN TO THE CHARTER LIMIT. I HAVE A PROCEDURAL QUESTION FOR MY  
22 FRIEND, MR. HANSEN, AND MR. FARBER. BECAUSE, WHILE-- I WENT TO  
23 LAW SCHOOL BECAUSE, IN PART, I WAS TERRIBLE AT MATH. I DID I  
24 TAKE CALCULUS IN COLLEGE. I DIDN'T LIKE IT. I CAN DO REMEDIAL  
25 MATH. AND SO, THE QUESTION PRESENTED IS, AND IT'S A



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April 19, 2005

1 HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION, WERE A VOTE ON A SUBSTITUTE MOTION TO  
2 FAIL 4-4 AND THEN A SUBSEQUENT VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION OFFERED  
3 BY A COMMITTEE MAJORITY ALSO TO FAIL ON A 4-4 VOTE, WOULD WE  
4 THEN DEFAULT BACK TO THE DECEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FULL  
5 COUNCIL?

6

7 **SPEAKER:** THE ANSWER IS YOU WOULD DEFAULT BACK TO THE DECEMBER  
8 RESOLUTION.

9

10 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** OKAY. NOW THE DECEMBER RESOLUTION, AND  
11 I'M LOOKING AT CIRCLE ONE, INCLUDES-- I'M LOOKING AT THE  
12 SCHOOLS' BUDGET. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A \$66 MILLION REDUCTION  
13 IN THE BUDGET FOR THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS. AM I  
14 READING THIS-- I'M LOOKING AT CIRCLE ONE.

15

16 **COUNCILMEMBER FLOREEN:** NO. THOSE ARE TARGET ELEMENTS. THEY'RE  
17 NOT AN ACTION ON THE BUDGET.

18

19 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** BUT THIS IS THE ALLOCATION THAT WE ARE  
20 TALKING ABOUT.

21

22 **COUNCILMEMBER FLOREEN:** THAT--

23

24 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** I UNDERSTAND THAT WE MAY NOT GET THERE IN  
25 MAY, BUT WOULDN'T THIS BE THE TARGET ALLOCATION?

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1

2 **COUNCILMEMBER FLOREEN:** YOUR DIRECTION TO THE EDUCATION  
3 COMMITTEE WAS TO TAKE A 1.25% REDUCTION IN THE AGENCY BUDGET  
4 AS SUBMITTED BY THE EXECUTIVE.

5

6 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** THAT IS ALSO CORRECT. WE HAVE MANY THINGS  
7 THAT ARE CORRECT TODAY.

8

9 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** I BELIEVE, AND MR. HANSEN CAN CORRECT  
10 ME, BUT THE NUMBERS IN DECEMBER THAT ARE AN ACTIONABLE ITEM  
11 FROM AN ELEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAY  
12 BUDGET, WHICH ARE THE TWO ELEMENTS THAT ARE THERE, ARE THE  
13 PROPERTY TAX LEVEL AT THE CHARTER LIMIT AND THE TOTAL  
14 AGGREGATE OPERATING BUDGET. THOSE ALLOCATIONS AMONG AGENCIES  
15 ARE GUIDELINES TO ALLOW THE COMMITTEES TO REVIEW HOW YOU  
16 REVIEW THE BUDGET. THEY ARE NOT BINDING ON THE COUNCIL.

17

18 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** WELL, I'M LOOKING AT PARAGRAPH TWO OF  
19 CIRCLE NINE. THIS IS THE RESOLUTION. IT SAY, "CHARTER SECTION  
20 305 AND CHAPTER 20 OF THE CODE REQUIRE THE COUNCIL TO SET  
21 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES." AND THEN PARAGRAPH TWO  
22 SAYS, "THE GUIDELINES MUST SPECIFY." AND THEN LOOK TO  
23 SUBSECTION C, "THE AGENCY SPENDING ALLOCATIONS FOR COUNTY  
24 GOVERNMENT," BLAH, BLAH, BLAH.

25

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1 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** RIGHT.

2

3 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** SO I READ "MUST" TO MEAN MUST.

4

5 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** YOU SPECIFY THEM, BUT THEY'RE NOT  
6 BINDING IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE LAW AND CHARTER RELATE TO  
7 PROPERTY TAX. THEY ARE, IN ESSENCE, ELEMENTS FOR THE  
8 COMMITTEES AND THE COUNCIL TO USE, BUT THEY DON'T HAVE A  
9 REQUIREMENT AS FAR AS VOTES ASSOCIATED WITH THEM.

10

11 **SPEAKER:** A LOT OF MONEY.

12

13 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** RIGHT. OKAY. WELL, I---

14

15 **COUNCILMEMBER KNAPP:** POINT OF ORDER, MR. PRESIDENT?

16

17 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** YES.

18

19 **COUNCILMEMBER KNAPP:** IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, WHAT WAS PASSED  
20 IN DECEMBER DID NOT INCLUDE--

21

22 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** SUNSET.

23

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1 **COUNCILMEMBER KNAPP:** RIGHT. SO, IF WE WERE TO HAVE A TIE AND  
2 REVERTED BACK TO THE DECEMBER GUIDELINES, COULD MOTION THEN BE  
3 MADE TO--

4

5 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** INCLUDE THE ENERGY TAX.

6

7 **COUNCILMEMBER KNAPP:** TO INCLUDE THE ENERGY TAX, SO ANOTHER  
8 MOTION THAT WOULD BE ROLLED INTO THIS?

9

10 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** IN OTHER WORDS, CAN A PORTION OF THE  
11 RESOLUTION--

12

13 **COUNCILMEMBER KNAPP:** SO THAT THE ENERGY TAX COULD BE INCLUDED  
14 FOR THE OVERALL CALCULATION?

15

16 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** THAT WOULD CHANGE THE AGGREGATE BUDGET.

17

18 **COUNCILMEMBER KNAPP:** IT'S STILL, AT THE END OF THE DAY,  
19 REQUIRED-- WELL, LET ME ASK THIS QUESTION. IS THE KEY FIGURE  
20 THE AGGREGATE, AS OPPOSED TO ANY OF THE PIECES THAT ARE HERE?

21

22 **COUNCILMEMBER LEVENTHAL:** THE AGGREGATE TRIGGERS THE SEVEN VOTE  
23 REQUIREMENT.

24

25 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** IS THAT THE 2.9789?

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1

2 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** NO, THAT'S THE TOTAL REVENUES.

3

4 **CHUCK SHERER:** THE CEILING IS ON CIRCLE TEN. YOU SEE IT IS  
5 \$2.947.9 BILLION. THAT'S THE DECEMBER AGGREGATE OPERATING  
6 BUDGET. AND THAT NUMBER WOULD REQUIRE SEVEN VOTES TO EXCEED.

7

8 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T HEAR YOU, CHUCK.

9

10 **CHUCK SHERER:** YOU'RE ASKING WHAT THE AGGREGATE OPERATING  
11 BUDGET WAS IN DECEMBER.

12

13 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** CORRECT.

14

15 **CHUCK SHERER:** I'M SAYING IT IS ON CIRCLE TEN. IT'S IN BOLD  
16 TYPE, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PAGE.

17

18 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** OKAY, SO THE AGGREGATE-- THE AGGRAVATING  
19 OPERATING BUDGET IN DECEMBER WAS \$2.947.9 BILLION DOLLARS?

20

21 **CHUCK SHERER:** YES, SIR.

22

23 **COUNCILMEMBER KNAPP:** I DIDN'T HEAR AN ANSWER TO THE INITIAL  
24 QUESTION, WHICH WAS COULD WE THEN MAKE A MOTION TO ELIMINATE

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1 THE SUNSET OF THE ENERGY TAX FOR THE PURPOSE OF THESE  
2 CALCULATIONS?

3

4 **CHUCK SHERER:** I THINK THE PROBLEM WITH THAT, MR. KNAPP, MIGHT  
5 BE THAT WHAT THE LAW SAYS IS THAT THE COUNCIL MAY AMEND THE  
6 DECEMBER RESOLUTION IN APRIL. AND I THINK, IF YOU AMEND THE  
7 RESOLUTION, YOU HAVE TO AMEND IT IN TOTALITY. I DON'T THINK  
8 YOU CAN PICK OFF INDIVIDUAL PIECES OF IT.

9

10 **SPEAKER:** I'M SORRY?

11

12 **COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN:** POINT OF ORDER.

13

14 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** YES, MR. SILVERMAN? LET'S JUST STAY ON  
15 THIS ISSUE THOUGH, FOR NOW.

16

17 **COUNCILMEMBER SILVERMAN:** SURE. I THINK WE ALL SORT OF  
18 UNDERSTAND THAT WE DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ASSUMING  
19 THE ENERGY TAX THAT THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE HAS PUT IN HIS BUDGET.  
20 HOWEVER, AT THE END OF THE DAY, EVEN IF YOU ASSUME THAT, YOU  
21 WILL STILL HAVE A NUMBER IN THE AGGREGATE, WHICH THE COMMITTEE  
22 HAS RECOMMEND, WHICH IS \$3 BILLION, 40 MILLION DOLLARS. THAT'S  
23 THE RECOMMENDATION. IF THAT WERE TO FAIL, YOU END UP GOING  
24 BACK, BY DEFINITION, TO THE DECEMBER 14TH NUMBERS, BECAUSE  
25 THERE WOULD BE NO COMMITTEE-- THERE WOULD BE NO MAJORITY OF



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1 THE COUNCIL THAT IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT AN OVERALL AGGREGATE  
2 NUMBER, BECAUSE SOME OF US DON'T LIKE AT LEAST ONE OF THE  
3 COMPONENT PARTS OF IT.

4

5 **COUNCILMEMBER FLOREEN:** THAT'S RIGHT. SO, WE'RE BACK TO THE 3  
6 BILLION FOUR POINT FOUR, WHICH IS THE NUMBER FROM DECEMBER.

7

8 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** WHICH IS RIGHT. IF YOU LOOK ON CIRCLE  
9 FIVE-- YOU CAN LOOK ON CIRCLE ONE. AND IT WOULD BE THE THIRD  
10 COLUMN UNDER-- I GUESS IT IS AT THE TOP OF THE COLUMN, FOR  
11 WHATEVER REASON. THERE'S A RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR: A, B, E, Y,  
12 Z, A, A.

13

14 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** IT'S TO KEEP US ON OUR TOES.

15

16 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** YES, YES. THAT'S HOW MY 2-YEAR-OLD SAYS  
17 HIS ALPHABET. OKAY. SO, WE'RE AT 3.004 BILLION.

18

19 **SPEAKER:** WHERE ARE YOU?

20

21 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** I'M AT CIRCLE ONE, AND I AM LOOKING AT  
22 FY06 COUNCIL 12/14/04. AND THE ANSWER I HEARD, AND PLEASE  
23 CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, TO MR. KNAPP'S QUESTION AND IT WAS A  
24 GOOD ONE, IS NO. I THINK THAT'S THE ANSWER I HEARD.

25

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April 19, 2005

1 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** ACTUALLY, THE AGGREGATE OPERATING  
2 BUDGET FOR PURPOSES OF THE-- IS \$2.947.9.

3

4 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** ON THE NEXT PAGE?

5

6 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** ON THE NEXT PAGE, LINE 35.

7

8 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** WHICH PAGE? I'M SORRY.

9

10 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** CIRCLE TWO, LINE 35. THAT'S THE  
11 AGGREGATE OPERATING BUDGET THAT WAS ADOPTED BY THIS COUNCIL IN  
12 DECEMBER.

13

14 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** CIRCLE TWO?

15

16 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** LINE 35. FY06 COUNCIL, DECEMBER 14TH  
17 ACTION. STILL COLUMN Y, AGGREGATE OPERATING BUDGET. THAT IS  
18 THE OPERATING BUDGET THAT IS THE TAX -SUPPORTED AGGREGATE  
19 OPERATING BUDGET, AND THEREFORE IS THE NUMBER THAT IS IN PLACE  
20 AT THIS POINT, ABSENT A MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL MODIFYING IT.  
21 AND THE OTHER PIECE THAT IS IN PLACE AT THIS POINT IS AN  
22 ASSUMPTION OF THE CHARTER LIMIT AS THE PROPERTY TAX LEVEL.  
23 THOSE TWO ACTIONS ARE IN PLACE BY VIRTUE OF THE DECEMBER  
24 ACTION. SO, ANY BUDGET ABOVE THAT AMOUNT WOULD REQUIRE SEVEN  
25 VOTES. AND THE BUDGET THAT WENT ABOVE THE CHARTER LIMIT WOULD

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1 REQUIRE SEVEN VOTES. ANY BUDGET THAT WENT ABOVE THE CHARTER  
2 LIMIT WOULD REQUIRE SEVEN VOTES.

3

4 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** CORRECT.

5

6 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** I DON'T THINK THAT'S GOING TO CHANGE  
7 WHETHER THERE'S AN ACTION TODAY OR NOT.

8

9 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** WELL--

10

11 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** NO, I UNDERSTAND, TO CHANGE TO AMEND.  
12 BUT I DON'T KNOW THAT WE HAVE TO TAKE AN ACTION IF WE DON'T  
13 AMEND. IT'S AN AMENDMENT TO DECEMBER, AND WE HAVE TO TAKE ANY  
14 ACTION TO AMEND BY THIS DATE. IT DOESN'T REQUIRE AN ACTION.  
15 IT JUST REQUIRES US TO DO IT BY THIS DATE OR NOT AT ALL.

16

17 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** THEN TO THAT POINT, THE ONE AMENDMENT WE  
18 COULD MAKE WOULD BE THE APPROVAL.

19

20 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** TO ADJUST THE AGGREGATE OPERATING  
21 BUDGET TO INCORPORATE THE ENERGY TAX REVENUE. [CROSS TALK]  
22 RIGHT. YES.

23

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April 19, 2005

1 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** SO, THAT IS A NICE IDEA. WE'RE AT  
2 DECEMBER. WHAT I WOULD SUGGEST IS WE-- WELL, THOSE REMEDIAL  
3 MATH SKILLS CAME IN HANDY ONCE AGAIN. MS. FLOREEN?

4

5 **COUNCILMEMBER FLOREEN:** WELL, I'M NOT SURE WHERE WE ARE IN THE  
6 PROCESS. IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE VOTES TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WE  
7 HAVE A TIE.

8

9 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** WE HAVE A MOTION ON THE FLOOR THAT WE'RE  
10 GOING TO VOTE ON.

11

12 **COUNCILMEMBER FLOREEN:** THEN WE'LL HAVE THE COMMITTEE MOTION.

13

14 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** CORRECT.

15

16 **COUNCILMEMBER FLOREEN:** THEN, AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME-- I MEAN,  
17 MY READING OF THE CODE SUGGESTS THAT WE CAN AMEND THE  
18 RESOLUTION WITH SIGNIFICANT CHANGING CONDITIONS. AND IF OUR  
19 SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS IS THAT THE ENERGY TAX IS NOT TO EXPIRE,  
20 IT WOULD SEEM TO ME APPROPRIATE TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT.

21

22 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** WHY DON'T WE DEAL WITH THE TWO MOTIONS  
23 THAT WE HAVE ON THE TABLE? ONE MOTION, AND THE COMMITTEE  
24 MOTION. THE AMENDMENT TO THE COMMITTEE MOTION.

25

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1 **COUNCILMEMBER FLOREEN:** THE COUNTY ATTORNEY AGREES THAT WE  
2 COULD DO THAT?

3

4 **SPEAKER:** YOU COULD INCREASE YOUR REVENUE ASSUMPTIONS, AND THAT  
5 WOULD BE THE BASIS FOR INCREASING THE AGGREGATE OPERATING  
6 BUDGET.

7

8 **COUNCILMEMBER FLOREEN:** OKAY.

9

10 **COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ:** OKAY. WELL, WE KNOW WHERE WE ARE. THE  
11 VOTE IS ON MR. DENIS' SUBSTITUTE, WHICH HAS BEEN SECONDED BY  
12 MR. LEVENTHAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR, SIGNIFY BY RAISING YOUR  
13 HANDS. MR. DENIS, MR. SILVERMAN, MR. LEVENTHAL, MYSELF.  
14 OPPOSED? MS. FLOREEN, MR. KNAPP, MR. ANDREWS, MS. PRAISNER. WE  
15 NOW HAVE THE COMMITTEE MAJORITY RECOMMENDATION. ALL OF THOSE  
16 IN FAVOR? SHOCKINGLY, MS. FLOREEN, MR. KNAPP, I'LL SAY MS.  
17 PRAISNER AND MR. ANDREWS, AND MRS. ANDREWS FOR THAT MATTER.  
18 AND OPPOSED? MR. DENIS, MR. SILVERMAN, MR. LEVENTHAL, AND  
19 MYSELF. SO, WE NOW GO BACK TO THE DECEMBER 4TH RECOMMENDATIONS.  
20 FOR THOSE OF YOU KEEPING SCORE AT HOME, AGAIN, THOSE ARE ON--  
21 CIRCLE 10 OUTLINES WHAT THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE. AND THE  
22 VARIOUS BUDGET ALLOCATIONS ARE CONTAINED IN A CHART, 4B, ON  
23 CIRCLE 10. THOSE WERE THE ALLOCATIONS THAT WERE AGREED TO IN  
24 THE DECEMBER COUNTY COUNCIL SESSION. AND YOU CAN COMPARE THOSE  
25 WITH WHAT THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET WAS IN TERMS OF THE

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1 RECOMMENDATIONS. SO FOR INSTANCE, M.C.P.S. IS LISTED AS \$1.536  
2 BILLION ON CIRCLE 10. THAT WAS THE DECEMBER RECOMMENDATION,  
3 AND TODAY THE RECOMMENDATION, IS THINK, \$66 MILLION HIGHER IN  
4 THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET. SO WE WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE  
5 FORWARD. I THINK MS. PRAISNER CORRECTLY STATED THAT THE REAL  
6 WORK THAT LIES AHEAD IS IN THE COMMITTEES, IN TERMS OF MAKING  
7 SURE THAT WE CONTINUE TO VIEW THE BUDGETS AND TAKE A CLOSE  
8 LOOK AT THE BUDGETS. AND FROM WHAT I'VE OBSERVED, I THINK  
9 WE'VE BEEN DOING A LOT OF VERY VIGILANT WORK IN THAT REGARD.  
10 AND I THINK THAT, AT THE END OF THE DAY, AGAIN, AS I'VE SAID A  
11 NUMBER OF TIMES, THE QUESTION IS CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO BE  
12 WHETHER THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, BUT HOW  
13 MUCH. AND AGAIN, I APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT WE HAD A ROBUST  
14 DEBATE, BUT IT ALSO WAS A RESPECTFUL DEBATE. AND WE'LL  
15 CONTINUE TO DO THAT AS WE MOVE AHEAD. SO WITH THAT I THINK WE  
16 ARE ADJOURNED. WE HAVE PUBLIC HEARINGS AT 1:30. IS THAT  
17 CORRECT, MS. LAUER? WE WILL RECONVENE AT 1:30. [LUNCH RECESS]



# The Meeting Transcript of The Montgomery County Council



April 19, 2005

1                               ### Afternoon Session ###

2   **SPEAKER:** PERSONS WISHING TO SUBMIT TESTIMONY SHOULD DO SO BY  
3   THE CLOSE OF THE HEARING. NO WITNESSES, THIS IS A PUBLIC  
4   HEARING, AGENDA ITEM NINE, SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR  
5   MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FY05 OPERATING BUDGET FOR  
6   PROVISION OF FUTURE SUPPORTED PROJECTS IN THE AMOUNT OF  
7   \$10,750,000. ACTION IS SCHEDULED FOLLOWING THE HEARING. THERE  
8   ARE NO WITNESSES FOR THIS. MS. PRAISNER?

9

10   **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** I HAVE A QUESTION. THIS IS A DRAMATIC  
11   INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF NON-TAX SUPPORTED, GRANT-FUNDED  
12   DOLLARS, ALL OF WHICH OBVIOUSLY HAS WITH IT THE IMPLICATIONS  
13   THAT IT CAN'T HAVE AN ONGOING IMPLICATION FOR COUNTY MONEY.  
14   BUT I-- AND I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THE BOTTOM LINE, EXCEPT  
15   THAT IT'S SUCH A DRAMATIC INCREASE. I WONDERED IF, AT SOME  
16   POINT, THE SCHOOL SYSTEM COULD GIVE US AN IDEA OF THE  
17   MAGNITUDE OF THINGS THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS. IF WE CAN  
18   NOW, MARSHAL, THAT'S FINE, TOO.

19

20   **SPEAKER:** WE CAN GIVE STAFF A LIST OF THE SPECIFIC GRANTS. THIS  
21   ALL REPRESENTS SPECIFIC GRANTS--

22

23   **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** RIGHT.

24

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April 19, 2005

1 **SPEAKER:** THAT WE'VE RECENTLY BEEN INFORMED OF, AND WE WILL BE  
2 HAPPY TO MAKE THAT AVAILABLE. AND COUNCIL HAS APPROVED MOST OF  
3 THOSE THROUGH SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN PREVIOUS YEARS.  
4 IT'S PART OF FUTURE SUPPORTED PROJECTS BECAUSE IT MEETS THOSE  
5 CRITERIA, THAT IT'S PREVIOUSLY BEEN--

6

7 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** RIGHT. BUT IT IS SO DRAMATIC, THE  
8 DOLLAR AMOUNT, THAT I THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR US TO HAVE  
9 MORE INFORMATION THAN JUST THE GENERAL INFORMATION.

10

11 **SPEAKER:** SURE. WE WILL BE HAPPY TO DO THAT. SURE.

12

13 **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISNER:** THANK YOU. CLERK: APPROVAL OF THE LAST  
14 ITEM?

15

16 **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEREZ:** OKAY. MOVED AND SECONDED. ALL THOSE  
17 IN FAVOR, SIGNIFY BY RAISING YOUR HAND. UNANIMOUS AMONG THOSE  
18 PRESENT. OKAY. THAT COMPLETES-- YES, PLEASE NOTE, MR. DENIS IS  
19 PRESENT, FOR THE RECORD. THAT BRINGS US TO THE END OF OUR  
20 COUNTY COUNCIL SESSION, SO WE CAN TURN TO THE JOINT MEETING OF  
21 THE M.F.P. AND T AND E COMMITTEES. FOR THOSE OF YOU HERE FOR  
22 THAT, THE AGENDA ITEM NUMBER ONE IS THE BUDGET FOR THE URBAN  
23 DISTRICTS. I WILL TURN IT OVER TO-- [END OF AUDIO]